

WORLD HERITAGE DAY



**SULTAN ZAIN-UL-ABDIN,
"THE BUDSHAH"
OF
KASHMIR**



GOVERNOR
JAMMU & KASHMIR



RAJ BHAVAN
JAMMU-180001

March 8, 2008.

MESSAGE

I am delighted to know that the Department of Archives, Archaeology and Museums is bringing out a journal "Budshah Day" to commemorate this year's World Heritage Day on 18 April, 2008. Indeed, this will be a befitting tribute to the 15th Century King, who is still fondly remembered as a most tolerant and secular King of Kashmir. Though five centuries have elapsed, yet Sultan Zain-ul-Abdin is remembered with a sense of gratitude and esteem by the people of Kashmir, as the benevolent king, who had a burning desire to improve the lot of mankind irrespective of religion. The great king ushered in a period of about half a century of peace and benevolent rule besides introducing crafts and promoting art and music in his Kingdom.

I pay my tribute to the memory of great King and appreciate the endeavours of Department of Archives, Archaeology and Museums for bringing out a journal in his memory.

(Lt Gen (Retd) S K Sinha, PVSM)



Ghulam Nabi Azad

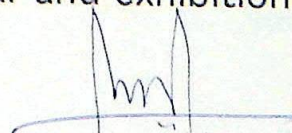


CHIEF MINISTER
Jammu and Kashmir
Srinagar

MESSAGE

I am happy to know that the Department of Archives, Archaeology and Museums, Srinagar is organizing one day seminar and exhibition on the eve of the World Heritage Day on 18th April, 2007 in SPS Museum, Lalmandi Srinagar. The topic "Sultan Zainul Abidin – the Budshah of Kashmir" suggested for the seminar is admirable. Budshah is known for his secular approach and administrative acumen.

I wish the seminar and exhibition a success.


(Ghulam Nabi Azad)

Tel. Srinagar (Off) : 0194-2482228, 2482099 Fax : 2482224
(Res) : 0194-2480591, (Telefax) : 2482100

Tel. Jammu (Off) : 0191-2546766, 2560203 Fax : 2546466
(Res) : 0191-2545888, 2544283 Fax : 2545529



Muzaffar Hussain Baig



Deputy Chief Minister
Planning & Development, Law &
Parliamentary Affairs, Tourism

D.O. No. : _____

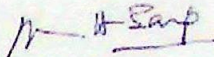
Dated : 12-03-2008

MESSAGE

It gives me immense pleasure to know that the Department of Archives, Archaeology and Museums is publishing a journal on Budshah. Kashmir attained the peak of its glory during the period of Sultan Zainul Abedin (1420 to 1470 A.D). No wonder, he continues to live in the hearts of people as Budshah.

Sultan Zainul Abedin was a real king who left deep impression not only on his own time but on the history as it evolved after him. He set new standards of governance in Kashmir and brought in fresh and energizing ideas of prosperity, social justice and communal harmony. His intervention in the economic development of Kashmir has had an abiding effect.

Publication of this journal is, of course, a good beginning. I hope it proves the important first step to commemorate Budshah in a manner that is worthy of his stature and grandeur.


(M.H. Baig)

Ph. : (O) 0191-2560613, 2560750 (R) 0191 7432385, 2433210 Jammu
(R) 0194-7481822, 2472536 Srinagar



Gulchain Singh Charak



MINISTER FOR HIGHER EDUCATION,
ARI and Trainings
Jammu & Kashmir Govt.
Jammu Srinagar

No. 1 25/HM/Hr Edu/2008

Dated: 3-3-2008

MESSAGE

I am delighted to know that Department of Archives Archaeology & Museums, Kashmir is publishing a brochure on Zain-ul-Abdin Budshah in connection with World Heritage Day celebrations.

Jammu & Kashmir State has produced great legends who played vital role in reconstruction of State communal harmony and secular character. Maharaja Ashoka, Lalitaditya, Budshah and Maharaja Gulab Singh are such few historical legends.

It is a welcome step that the Department is not only taking care of composite cultural heritage of the State but at the same time celebrates days in memory of great kings of Kashmir. On this occasion I appreciate the efforts of the Departmental Officers for publishing brochures and making people conscious about their historical legends. I wish all the success.


(Gulchain Singh Charak)



Tariq Hameed Karra



**MINISTER FOR
Finance Housing & Urban Development
Jammu and Kashmir**

Srinagar off: 0194-2485655 Fax: 2479115
Ph: Resi: 0194- 2485441
Jammu Off: 0191-2546158 Fax: 2563824
Resi: 0191-2566969 2560930
Cell: 941900757

Message

The department of Archives, Archaeology and museums deserves to be appreciated for coming up with a magazine on Zain-ul-Abidin popularly known as "Budshah". A statesman of 15th Century whose policy was based on public welfare. Budshah was popular because of his policy of harmony and tolerance which he had shown in dealing with the people of various faiths.

The department has made a fine tribute to this great ruler of Kashmir for celebrating world "Heritage Day" in his name with the intention to exhibit his contribution to the society at large. Since the department is the repository of our heritage maintaining Books, Monuments as well as rare manuscripts, the department must come up with regular publications in this regard as well, so that our young generation keeps itself aware of our past history.

(Tariq Hameed Karra)

The University of Kashmir



UNIVERSITY CAMPUS
HAZRATBAL
SRINAGAR-190006

A WORD

It gives me pleasure to know that the Department of Archives Archaeology and Museums, Srinagar is organizing a one day seminar and exhibition on 'Sultan Zain-ul-Abdin, "The Budshah" of Kashmir on the eve of world Heritage Day.

These historical seminars and exhibitions do play a pivotal role in regenerating and rekindling mass interest in the survival of the art and culture. All the efforts made by the Archaeological Department in this connection are recordable and worth appreciation. I am of firm belief that these seminars and exhibitions will prove fruitful and may help the people to know about the history and legendary figures of history besides increasing enthusiasm to envision the glorious past. The heritage, for which we have all along been praised through out the world, will foster a sense of pride in the citizenry of our state.

I wish the Department all the best and success to the programme.

(Prof. Abdul Wahid)



Pramod Jain
IAS



Commissioner & Secretary to Government,
Higher & Technical Education Department,
Jammu & Kashmir



No

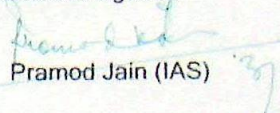
Dated

MESSAGE

It is nice to learn that Department of Archives Archaeology & Museums, Kashmir is publishing a brochure on Zain-ul-abdin Badshah in connection with World Heritage Day celebrations.

Preserving heritage of the State and its historical legends is the responsibility of the Department for which the Department has been created way back, keeping in view, the varied and composite heritage of the state and the contribution of historical legends towards its enrichment is to explored and endorsed.

I congratulate the Department of Archives Archaeology & Museum, Kashmir for holding of seminars, exhibitions and publishing brochures on historical legends of the State. The brochure titled Badshah is very informative wherein the notes and photograph of Archaeological, Numismatic and Archival Artifact pertaining to Badshah period has been mentioned in a wonderful order. It is most attractive and informative brochure which I think would increase our knowledge about Badshah period which has been called as the golden period. I hope the departmental officer will continue their services for up keep ment of states priceless heritages and historical legends.


Pramod Jain (IAS)

Srinagar (May-October) Tel : 0194-2471906/2452265, Res : 0194-2501070
Jammu (November to April) Tel : 0191-2546354/2542880, Res : 0191-24664920
email : pramod@jkc.vic.in



Basharat Ahmad Dhar, IAS



*Provisional Commissioner
Kashmir.*

D. O. No.:

Dated :

A Word

It gives me pleasure to know that the department of Archives Archaeology and Museums, Srinagar is organizing a one day **Seminar and Exhibition on Sultan Zain-ul-Abdin "The Budshah"** of Kashmir on the eve of **World Heritage Day** which is being celebrated at the global level, on **18th April 2007**.

The historical seminars and exhibitions will prove fruitful and help the people to know about our history, historical facts and also cultural heritage.

I wish the programme success.

**Basharat Ahmad Dhar,
I.A.S.**



Mehboob Iqbal IAS



*Divisional Commissioner
Kashmir*

M E S S A G E

It gives me extreme pleasure that the Department of Archives, Archaeology and Museums, Kashmir has, for the first time, organised a Seminar and Exhibition on "**Sultan Zain-ul-Abdin**" popularly known as "**Budshah**".

Sultan Zain-ul-Abdin, the Budshah, has been a great king of Kashmir who ruled in 15th Century. He has been the historic legend whose contribution towards Kashmir's secular character and artistic traditions were outstanding.

It is worthwhile to know that the Archaeology Department is going to publish a Brochure in the near future which ^{will} highlight the role of **Sultan Zain-ul-Abidin**. Publishing of Brochures and holding Seminars on great historic legends is a welcome step. It would be proper if in future the Department takes into account the role of other historical legends as well.

Furthermore, celebration of "**World Heritage Week**" and the allied functions by the Archaeological Department is also a praise-worthy step.

(Mehboob Iqbal) IAS
Divisional Commissioner,
Kashmir



Sheikh Mohammad Iqbal

Ph.D.

Arab Islamic Research & Publications
"SAULDIYAH", Barzua Bridge
Srinagar, Kashmir
Phone (R): 91-194-431499



"There is no compulsion in religion: Truth stands out clear from error. Whoever rejects Evil and believes in God hath grasped the most trustworthy hand-hold, that never breaks, and God hears and knows all things."

(Al-Quran 2: 255)

Dated: 9 April, 2007.

MESSAGE

It is heartening to hear that the Department of Archives, Archaeology and Museums, is about to organise a Seminar (cum-Exhibition) on a very vital subject connected with our past glory, namely, the illustrious reign of Sultan Zain-ul- 'Abidin (1420-70 A.D.), popularly known as Budshah. In fact, for the students of History, while the theme is most inspiring, the period of Shahmiri Sultans of Kashmir itself conveys essential and lasting lessons in human reconstruction which is so much needed today. Inspiring it is because of the spiritual and cultural achievements of an Era when the star of the fateful Sultanate was in the ascendant. Secondly, from the vivacious part of its history only those people will receive guidance who seriously ponder the reasons of the successes and failures of the particular Sultans.

Nevertheless, apart from the missionary role of Sayyid Ali Hamadani and his son, Mir Muhammad Hamadani (Allah bless their souls), the sum-total of the contribution of the Shahmiri dynasty is in essence symbolised by the positive aspects of the reign of Zain-ul- 'Abidin. His enriching legacies in terms of administrative justice, promotion of arts, architecture and industry, indiscriminate patronage of learning and the learned, and his public reforms in various domains of the society, are certainly great, unforgettable and worthy of emulation. If only, we were to properly study and evaluate Budshah's illustrious Rule, it might help usher in a true renaissance of the legacies concerned, leading further to a general awakening and enlightenment of an aspirant community that still gratefully remembers the magnanimous Sultan with due honour and esteem he deserves most among the rulers of yore.

Accordingly, I hardly doubt the value and importance of the Seminar proposed by the Department to focus attention on a frequently celebrated Sultan. I should congratulate the organisers for their resolve and hope that the discussions on the auspicious occasion will enhance true interest in identifying the way toward preserving and reviving our past heritage. I wish the originators of the refreshing programme a lasting success in their endeavours attended with fervour, dedication and devotion.

SHEIKH MOHAMMAD IQBAL,
Ph.D.

Formerly:

Visiting Asian Professor to U.S.,
and,
Director, Libraries, Research, Museums & Archaeology, J&K.



Mohammad Shafi Zahid

Deputy Director

Archives, Archaeology and Museums

Kashmir Province

PREFACE

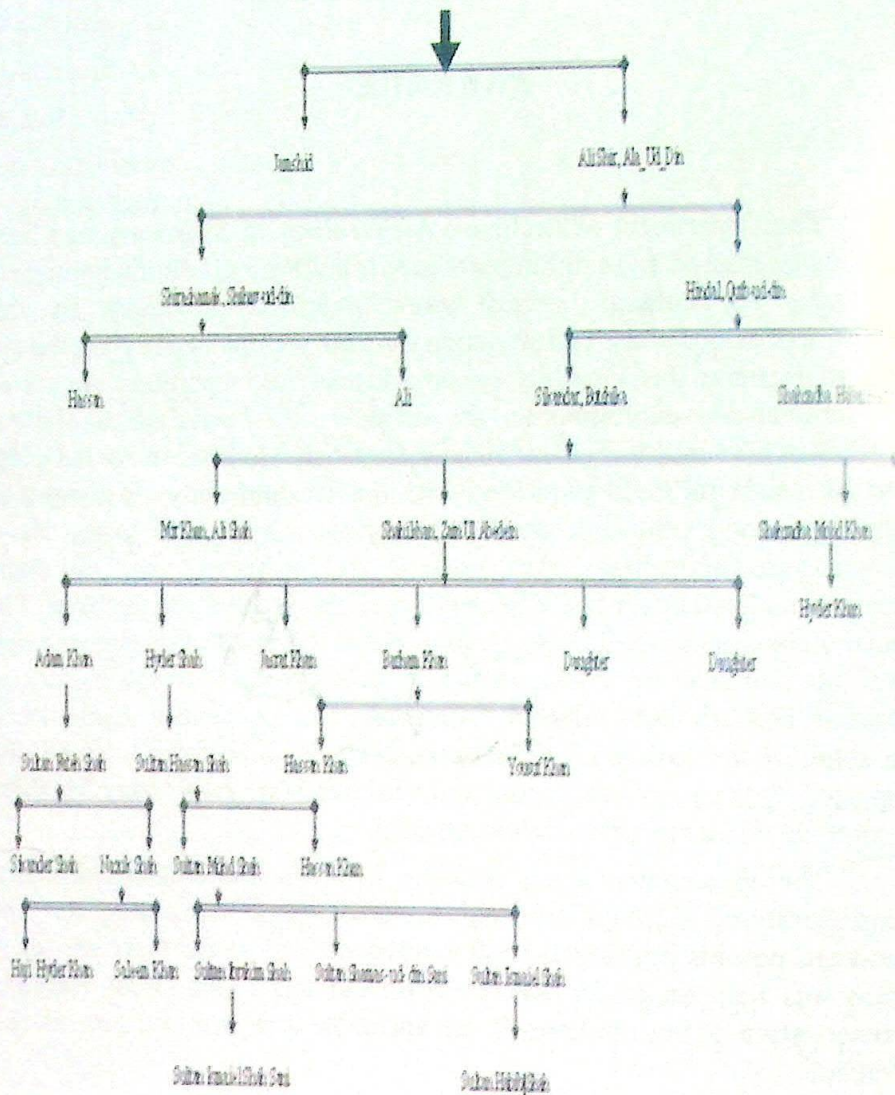
The Department of Archives, Archaeology & Museums, has been organizing seminars and exhibitions related to culture and cultural heritage of the State. The cultural heritage week organized previously by this Department gained praise and attraction from all over the country. On the eve of World Heritage Day, the advisory committee of this Department suggested that seminar-cum-exhibition on the theme "Sultan Zain-ul-Abdin - Budshah of Kashmir" be held at Srinagar. Budshah, The kind and pious King, who ruled Kashmir for 51 years forged the much needed unity and communal harmony among various sections and religious sects of the times. He is known as the founder of modern Kashmir and for his reforms, communal harmony, national integrity and benevolence. He is called "Akbar Sani" The Social, Economical and Cultural Developments got boosted during his reign made his period to be known as the "**Golden Period**" in the history of Kashmir. The Arts and Crafts, the awakening, developments in Agricultural are some of the hallmarks of his period. He is remembered, loved and respected by the people of Jammu and Kashmir State even today for these unparalleled achievements and contributions.

The appreciation letters received from various eminent scholars, Administrators, Heritage lovers, Archaeologists, Museologists and renowned persons praising the different aspects of world Heritage week which was held on 19-25 Nov 2006 on the topic Our Great Heritage "**preservation a big challenge**" are appended herewith for record and reference.

The proposed seminars will unveil all the realties of this great legendry king of the Kashmir. We all are duty bound to preserve the culture and cultural heritage of this land so that the coming generations may feel proud of it and go ahead on the footsteps of their ancestors.

GENEALOGICAL CHART OF SHAH MIR DYNASTY

SHAH MIR SHAMAS UD DIN



SULTAN ZAIN UL ABDIN, THE BUDSHAH OF KASHMIR



Founder of Arts, Crafts, Music and Fine Arts.

Shahi Khan Alias Zain-ul-Abideen, whom a common Kashmiri holds in high esteem by fondly remembering him as Budshah, the great king, was son of sultan sikander. However there is no historically authentic proof of his real name. Most of the historians do have a consensus about Shahi Khan being his real name while as a few believe Shahrukh was his real name. Whatever may be the reality, all and sundry would prefer to call him as Budshah. Budshah ascended the throne in the year 1420 A.D. He belonged to the Shahrin royal family. He was the only King of Kashmir who happened to be a great poet, philosopher, linguist and promoter of arts and crafts. He wrote two books in Persian.

Zain-ul-Abidin had three wives, two from Jammu, having four sons Adam Khan, Haji Khan, Jasarat Khan and Bahram Khan. Zain-ul-Abidin had married Makhdooma Khatun. She was the daughter of Syed Mohd Bhairahi, the chief of Bhairahi Syeds. He remained so much devoted to her that when she died in 1465 AD, he lived in loneliness and in a distressed condition. Makhdoom Khatun is buried in a graveyard near the shrine of Bahauddin Ganj Baksh, Srinagar Kashmir.



Eternal Resting place of the Budshah

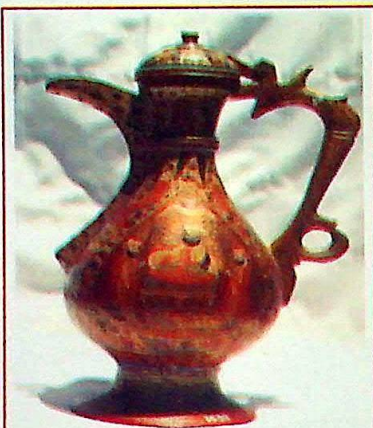
PATRON OF ART & CRAFTS

Syed Ali Hamdani, (RA) the learned saint who visited Kashmir in late 14th century for propagation of Islam, brought with him over seven hundred disciples. Some of them were mostly skilled craftsman. They also brought with them their own life styles, language, dress patterns, food habits etc. which subsequently got social acceptance in the valley of Kashmir.

The cultural contacts between Central Asia and Kashmir increased during the reign of Budshah as he had witnessed the glory of Central Asia personally, during his stay in Samarkund



Cannopy of Badshah.



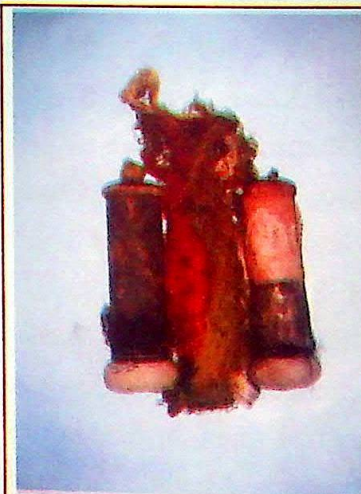
Paper machie teapot bearing influence of Persia.

for 8

years. He was deeply impressed with the work of craftsmen there. On his return to Kashmir and after ascending the throne, Budshah invited artisans and craftsmen from Central Asia and Persian to this place. He offered them good prospects and concessions to settle down in Kashmir and also deputed some intelligent persons from among his own subjects to learn arts and crafts in such culturally rich centers of Central Asia. Some

of the Central Asian arts of the times that were popularized in Kashmir include:-

wood carving, paper machie, shawl weaving, carpentry, stone polishing, stone cutting, glass blowing, window cutting, , Gold and silver leaf making, book binding, silk shawl



Magasrani of Badshah's Parents.

and carpet weaving.

These were introduced under his fostering care in the valley of Kashmir. Canopy of Zain ul Abdin which is in silken material is a proof which substantiates this claim.



Kanni Shawl.



Paper machie



Khatam Band Wood work on ceiling

A BUILDER OF MOSQUES AND SHRINES



Jamia Masjid with unique Architectural features

This Mosque was built by Sultan Sikander, father of Budshah. Its foundation was laid in 1398.A.D. It was later on remodeled by his successor and son, Zain-ul-Abidin. He also established an Islamic School wherein Arabic, Sanskrit, and Persian were taught to the students. He also constructed four tall minars of this grand mosque and expanded compound of the mosque 254x334 feet's long, planted the Chinar trees around it.

Lover of Sufis and Saints

Budshah was not patron of Arts and crafts only but a great patron of men of letters and musicians. His court was thronged by saints, scholars, poets and musicians to whom he gave great respects and regards. It was during his reign that there was economic prosperity, political stability and sense of security in Kashmir. This attracted men of letters to this place. Sheikh Noor- ud- Din Reshi, Bahu- ud- din Ganj Baksh and Syed Mohammad Madani were amongst the great Saint of the time. He was the believer of saints and ascetics and profited himself with their day to day association. He was a disciple of these saints and scholars and constructed some Shrines and Mosques in their name. These are now looked after by the Department of Archives Archaeology & Museums, as some of these stand declared as state protected monuments.

TOMB OF BUDSHAH'S MOTHER MAHRAJ GUNJ, SRINAGAR

This 15th century monument is situated on the bank of River Jehlum near Zainakadal in downtown Srinagar. It is the tomb of Sultan Zain-ul-Abidin's mother Miradevi. The Sultan constructed it in 1465 A.D. Some



Persian inscription about the foundation wall of Sultans maazari salaateen

believe it was constructed by budshah's father. To its North, the tomb has a burial ground called Mazaar-e-Salateen, where King Zain-ul-Abdin, his parents, Mirza Hyder Dughlat and other historical personalities of Kashmir are lying buried . It is a remarkable example of Shahmiri architecture. This is protected monument and is being looked after by Archaeological Survey of India.

MOSQUE AND SHRINE OF SHEIKH UL ALAM SHEIKH NOOR-UD-DIN NOORANI (Ra) CHARAR I-SHARIEF

This structure lies at about 28 Kms South West of Srinagar in the Charar village on the road to Yusmarg. It is the shrine or "Ziarat" of Noor-ud-Din Reshi, popularly known as Nund Reshi, Sheikh-ul-Alam(RA) or Alamdar-e-Kashmir. Zain-ul-Abideen constructed this shrine on the burial site of Sheikh-ul-Alam and attended himself the burial prayers.



Originally built by Badshah, it was a wooden structure.

SYED MOHAMMAD MADANI MOSQUE HAWAL, SRINAGAR.

Syed Mohammad Madani, was a foreign envoy priest and came from Madina Saudia Arabia during the reign Sultan Skindar as an ambassador from the ruler of that country. He was a great scholar who lived in Kashmir during the reign of Sultan Sikander. However, he died during Budshah's rule, who built this tomb in his memory. It is an example of the pre-Mughal style of Kashmiri architecture. It was adorned with glazed tiles which are not seen any where in the sub continent and the Department is paying every attention towards preservation/restoration of this monument and to develop it as one of the centers of cultural pilgrim tourism.



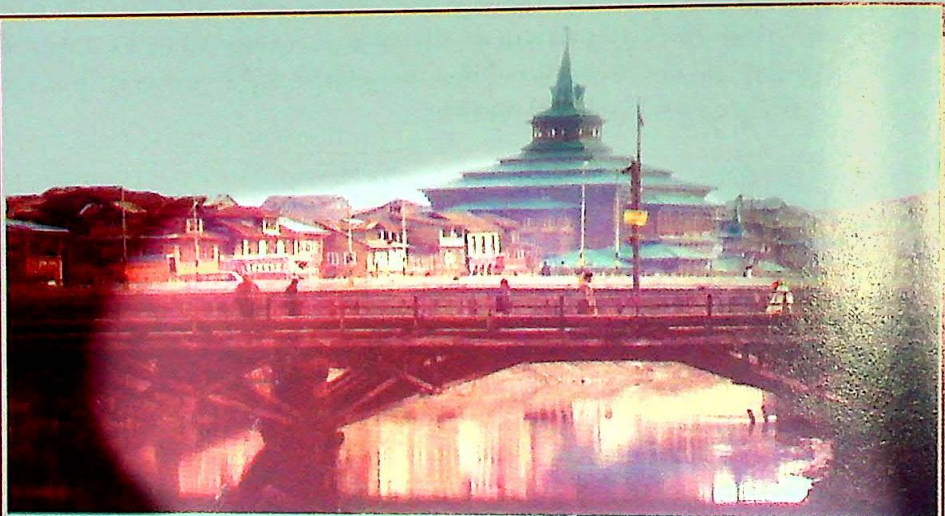
Syed Mohammad Madani Mosque

VISIONARY OF AGRARIAN REFORMS

Kashmir's are mostly rice eaters. For cultivation of rice irrigation is indispensable. Budshah repaired old canals and dug out new one which irrigated arid regions as well. Some of them have been sites of historical importance till this date and some of the canals fell into disuse after the introduction of modern technology. The Shah Kul, Zaingir canals etc. dug out in his time continues, till this date are put to use for the purposes of irrigation in Anantnag District of South Kashmir as well as North Kashmir respectively.

ROAD CONNECTIVITY ENGINEER

Budshah personally supervised the construction of several bridges for the convenience of the people. The Zaina Kadal Bridge was constructed during his time in his name and several other bridges like Fateh Kadal by Fath-i-Shah, Ali Kadal and Aali Masjid during the period of Sultan Ali Shah came into existence in the reign of shahmir dynasty.



An exemplary proof of Engineering of Badshah's Period

Foundation stone of an island raised in Wular Lake by Sultan Zain-ul-Abidin in 847 Hijrah, when he was at the zenith of his power and prestige. The translation of the quatrain reads:

*May this edifice lie as firm
as the foundations of the
Heaven*

*May it be the most
renowned ornament of the
Universe.*



Foundation stone of an island raised in Wular Lake by Sultan Zain-ul-Abidin in 847 Hijrah, when he was at the zenith of his power and prestige. The

SCHOLARLY PURSUITS

The Sultan founded Bureau of Translation where Sanskrit books on different subjects were translated into Persian. Mulla Ahmad translated Mahabharata, Dasavtara and Raj-Tarangani into Persian and likewise Persian books written in Kashmiri and imported from Iran and Central Asia, were translated into Sanskrit by the Sanskrit Scholars. Mulla Ahmad also wrote in Persian a history of Kashmir entitled "Bahrul Asmar." The Sultan's patronage was equally bestowed upon the Brahman scholars.

The Brahman scholars and writers also held high posts in the Royal



Mahabarta and other ancient scriptures were translated from sharda to persian & Vice versa

SCHOLARLY PURSUITS



Badshah gave every encouragement to Persian and Sharda scripts. He ordered epitaphs on the graves to be written in Persia, Sanskrit as well as in Sharda Scripts, These are the living examples.

LUMANARIES OF BUDSHAH PERIOD

Maulana Kabir:-

A Kashmiri by birth, he was called back from Herat and was ordered to hold the office of Sheikh-ul-Islam or chief head Jurist (shariah) by Budshah.

Qazi Jamaludin:-

He was appointed Chief Justice for the whole of his kingdom.

Hafiz Baghdadi:-

Qazi Mir Ali Bukhari, Syed Hussain Quamani Raizvi, Hakim Mansoor wrote the books on medicine in Persian.

PROMOTER OF INDIGENIOUS CULTURE, NUMISMATIC HERITAGE

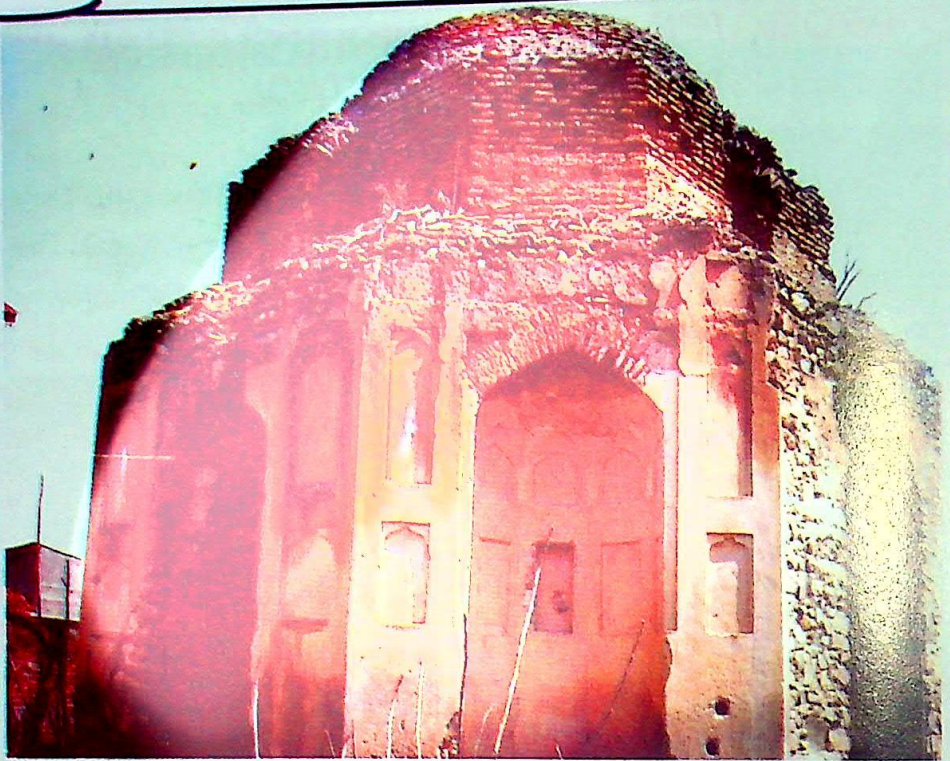
Budshah issued fresh coins of copper and silver of fine stuff. They were extensively minted at the Royal Mint House at Saraf Kadal. The Department in past two years was successful in recovering the treasure trove coins of Zain-ul-Abideen in different districts of the valley.



Obverse and reverse of the coins of Sultan Zain ul Abidin

IDEAL BUILDER

Budshah was virtually Shah-i-Jehan of Kashmir. As the later was having much love for art and architecture the former was much ahead of Shah-i-Jehan as far as architecture Heritage of Kashmir is concerned. Many important buildings, and townships bear witness to this fact. Some of the important Architectural Sites include, **Zaina Lank, Zaina Kot, Zaina Pattan, Zaina Kundal, Zaina Muth, Zaina Dab, Zaina Pore, Zaina Telak, and Zaina Gir.** Some of the villages given names after the Sultan Zain-ul-Abdin, do exist at present.



This site is at Sgr. Highway. Historically , Architecturally It is so important that it must take precedence over other monuments in the valley.

Budshah the great builder of Jammu and Kashmir state had built the buildings, a places and the maktabas where all scriptures of Persians, Sanskrit and Arabic were taught besides other places where the people used to worship. These buildings were multi storied places of worship too were built at various corners of the valley of Kashmir. One of the living examples of such *dumats* is in interior part of soura opposite to SKIMS. This is one of the *Dumats* presumed to have been constructed by Shahi Khan, the Badshah. All the features of this *Dumat TOMB* does have close resemblance with the tomb of Sultan's mother Mehra Devi. It is built of small bricks and wood. The Department has submitted recommendations for the renovation and unkeep of this deli plated monument of the authorities.

GENEOROSITY TOWARDS MUSICIANS

Sultan was great patron of music. Even though in the pre-Budshah period too music was very popular in Kashmir but he introduced here Irani and Central Asian musicians under his royal patronage. Many new Ragnies were thus introduced into Kashmir music. The principal musical instruments that owe their existence to Budshah era are **Sarangi, Sitar, and Sadtara** with hundred strings. Mulla Jamil, the poet musician was great expert in vocal music and possessed the natural gift of a melodious voice.

GENEVOLANCE TOWARDS PRISONERS

Budshah introduced jail reforms which resulted in creating productive resources for the maintenance of prisoners in the jail. It was taken unfair to hold prisoners behind bars without any work and allow them to remain absorbed in idle gossip. Therefore, he introduced Prison related industries to reform the criminals by engaging them in occupations like pottery and made them to work as labours on public works. This policy was for the first time introduced in Sultanate period.

GOVERNANCE AND STATE-CRAFT The migration is commonly undertaken by a section of people when circumstances become unfavorable for them. It was under the rule of Sultan Sikander, that some of Kashmiri's were forced to migrate from their home land.

his was successfully reversed by this illustrious King of Kashmir, Budshah. He took very strong measures and enacted legislation to ensure safety of migrants and ensured their rehabilitation. They enjoyed the best of facilities ,privileges and all amenities of life during the reign of Zain-ul-Abideen. This is why pandits of Kashmir proudly call him **Batashah, the king of Kashmiri pandit.**

HARBRINGER OF CO- EXISTENCE Budshah abolished Jaziya and the cremation tax that Kashmiri pandits were obliged to pay. This was in

GENEOROSITY TOWARDS MUSICIANS

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GOVERNANCE AND STATE-CRAFT

The migration is commonly

All this shows that Zain Ul abdein was not a king of the country but above of the hearts of the people. He won the hearts of all sections of the society. He made no distinction between any religious community, treated his subjects equally and judiciously. One of the best and most reliable Ministers of Zain-ul-Abdeen was Hindu Brahmin named Suaha Batha Budshah's popularity can be judged from this fact that even after centuries he is remembered with great veneration and respect by all Kashmi's alike. To this effect even today buildings and colonies like Budshah Nagar, bridges like Budshah Bridge and public places Budshah Hotel were named after him. At this crucial juncture of history, the people of Jammu & Kashmir can safely rely on him for guidance even in every walk of modern life. He symbolizes the essence of Kashmir culture i.e. unity in diversity, tolerance and co-existence.



Message

The world Heritage week is being celebrated with effect from 19th to 25th of November 2006 to sensitize the people about the importance of preservation of our culture. The three regions of our state represent a mosaic of very diverse, ancient and rich culture.

I compliment the department of Archives, Archaeology and Museums for organizing various activities as part of the celebrations of the World Heritage Week to underscore the importance of our rich cultural heritage. I take this opportunity to appeal to the general public to respect our cultural heritage and ensure that no damage is allowed to be cause to the repositories of our heritage which include Museums and Monuments.

I wish the organizers of this World Heritage Week Success.

DIP-J: 765-P

(Ghulam Nabi Azad)

A.K.Angurana (IAS)
Principal Secretary to Govt.
Higher & Technical Education
Deptt. Jammu.

Message

The world Heritage Week is being celebrated through out the globe to bring out the importance of cultural heritage and its preservation for the posterity.

The Jammu and Kashmir State has a great legacy and noble traditions, spanning five thousand years of civilized life, earliest written history, magnificent monuments, ancient shrines, temples mosques, churches, gurdwaras, monasteries etc. which speak volumes about its diverse cultural heritage. All the three regions of the State viz Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh are known for their cultural treasures and natural beauty which has attracted great travelers, historians and scholars since times immemorial from outside.

It is heartening that the Department of Archives, archaeology and Museums is organizing various activities during the World Heritage Week commencing from Nov.19th, 2006 to highlight the importance of our cultural wealth and its preservation for posterity. While lot of steps are being taken by the Govt. to preserve this wealth in its original form, the participation & cooperation of every citizen is equally important in this noble mission.

I wish the Department of Archives, Archeology and Museums great success in its endeavours.

DIP-J:-765-P
Dt 18-11-06

Sd/-
(Ashok Kumar Angurana)



The Hon'ble Minister of Health & Education being briefed by Dy. Director about the Archaeological significance of Kutbal tiles of 1st Century A.D



The Hon'ble Minister of State for Health & Education Minister Peer Mohd. Hussain inaugurating the exhibition-seminar at Kutbal hill top on the theme "Treasures of the past"



Dy. Director Archves Achaeology & Museums, Kashmir M.S. Zahid with, Mr. R.C. Agarwal Joint Director General Archaeological Survey of India noted Archaeologist Dr. S.P. Gupta and others.



Galaxy of intellectuals listining the lecture series organized by Department at Old Secretariat, Srinagar, in connection with world Heritage Week 2006

**Media Feedback Comments
and
Appreciations
from
Historians, Intellectuals,
Cultural activists, Archaeologists
and
Museologists**

के. चक्रवर्ती, आई.ए.एस
Chakravarty, IAS
(Harvard)

सचिव, भारत सरकार
Secretary, Govt. of India
सदस्य सचिव एवं न्यासी
इन्दिरा गांधी राष्ट्रीय कला केन्द्र
जनपथ, नई दिल्ली-110001
Member Secretary and Trustee
Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts
Janpath, New Delhi-110 001

No. VIII/I/MS/IGNCA/2007

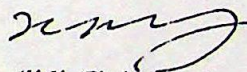
February 1, 2007

Dear Shri Zahid,

Thank you very much for your letter No. DDAMA-111-389/WHW/2006 dated 29th November 2006, and the brochure on the commemoration of 'World Heritage Week' held from 19th to 25th November 2006. The brochure offers excellent synoptic coverage of historical and cultural facets of the J. & K Culture. We would look forward to a suitable opportunity to join you in the conservation and dissemination of the priceless heritage of Jammu and Kashmir. I am endorsing a copy of this letter to Dr. G.L. Badam, who is from J & K, and is working with us as our Advisor.

Best wishes

Sincerely yours,


(K.K. Chakravarty)

Shri Mohammad Shafi Zahid
Deputy Director
Archives, Archaeology & Museums,
Old Secretariat
Government of Jammu & Kashmir



The Secretary Higher & Technical Education Department, with noted Historian Mr. Fida Mohammad Hussanian, Dr. Abdul Ahad and G.M. Zahid



The Historians, Archaeologist and Ex-Directors during the seminar exhibition "Our Great Heritage Preservation a big Challenge".



प्रतनकीर्तिमपावतु

Prof. R.C. Agrawal
Joint Director General

फोन / Phone : (Off.) 23277083, (Lib.): 23270061

टेली फैक्स / Tele Fax : 23277107

E-mail : director_ja@yahoo.co.in

पुरातत्व संस्थान

भारतीय पुरातत्व सर्वेक्षण

लाल किला परिसर, दिल्ली-110006

INSTITUTE OF ARCHAEOLOGY

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA

Red Fort Complex, Delhi - 110006

संख्या / No.

दिनांक / Dated.....

2nd May, 2007

Dear Shafi Zahid,

I am in receipt of your invitation card regarding the seminar organised on Sultan Zain-ul-Abdin, "The Budshah" of Kashmir. Budshah is a very important figure in the History of Kashmir and your efforts to hold a seminar about him is a worthy endeavour.

I convey my best wishes

Yours sincerely

(R.C. Agrawal)

To
Shri Mohammad Shafi Zahid
Dy. Director
Government of Jammu and Kashmir
Department of Archives, Archaeology & Museums
Stone Building, Old Secretariat
Srinagar

بڈشاہ..... دلوں کا حکمران

بڈشاہ کی کوہلہ ہرنچ ڈسے کی مناسبت سے سرینگر میں پہلی بار
بڈشاہ کی یادگار ایک قابل صد تعریف اقدام ہے۔ عالمی یوم ورثہ
بڈشاہ کی یادگار اس دن کو کشمیر کی تاریخ کے ایک ایسے ہر واعرین،
معارف و ادیبوں، ائمہ و دانشوروں اور بڈشاہ سے منسوب کیا جاتا ہے کہ حقیقت نہ
صرف بڈشاہ کی یادگار کی یاد آوری کا موقع فراہم کرے بلکہ اس سے
بڈشاہ کی یادگار کو عوام اور ذی دوش حکام کے سامنے اس کی گورننس
کی مثال بھی کیا جا کر دیا جائے گی جس کے لئے یہ سازمانہ بڑی بے تابی
اور سہمہری سے ایک اور بڈشاہ کا انتظار کر رہے ہیں بلکہ زمانے کی
آنکھیں بھی انتظار کرتے کرتے پتھر اٹھیں ہیں۔ ان حوالوں سے
ڈیپارٹمنٹ آف آرکائیوز اور برٹش ایڈمیوٹیز کے زیر اہتمام
”بڈشاہ ڈسے“ کا انعقاد بروقت اور برپا اقدام ہے جس کے لئے اس
کے منتظمین اائق صد مرجا ہیں۔ بڈشاہ نے 1420ء سے 1470ء
تک مجید بھاد اور من و شو کی تفریق سے بالاتر ہو کر کشمیر پر حکومت و
سلطنت کا فریضہ جس احسن طریقے پر سرانجام دیا اس کی تاثیر اس قدر
سدا بہار اور ناقابل فراموش ہے کہ آج اس کا تذکرہ تاریخ کے گم گشتہ
اور اوراق میں غائب نہیں بلکہ اس کی منصف مزاجی، حسن تدبیر، خدمت
خلق، انتظامی صلاحیتیں اور طرز حکمرانی کی شاندار مثال عوامی ذہن میں
محفوظ ہے۔ اہل کشمیر صدیاں گزرنے کے بعد بھی اس ہر واعرین بڈشاہ کا
نام عزت اور محبت سے لیتے ہیں۔ اولیاء کا ملین کے بعد کشمیر میں جتنے
بھی سلاطین اور حکمرانوں نے حکومت کی ان میں یہ رتبہ صرف ایک
بڈشاہ کو حاصل ہے کہ عوام کے دل و دماغ میں اتنا سحر کیا کہ اس کی
حسین یادیں زندہ جاوید ہیں۔ گو تاریخ اسے ایک وسیع القاب اور عوام
دوست انسان، مدبر اور علم و فن کا دلدادہ حکمران ہونے کے حوالے فرما
تھیں پیش کرتی ہے لیکن یہ اس بڈشاہ کی اپنی کھن کر کردگی کا مظہر ہے
کہ پچاس سال تک جو لوگ اس کے زیر نگین رہے انہوں نے اپنے

حکمران کی دل و جان سے اتنی قدر افزائی کی کہ آج بھی وہ ایک مثالی
بادشاہ کے طور پر یاد کئے جاتے ہیں۔ اصل بات یہ ہے کہ تخت و تاج
سنبھال کر اکثر حکمران اقتدار کی مدہوشی میں بہک جاتے ہیں اور اس
معاملے میں بڑے بڑے نیتاؤں کا توازن و اعتدال بھی ایک دم ڈوگاتا
ہے، بہت کم لوگ ایسے ہوتے ہیں جو اقتدار میں رہ کر عوام کے سروں
سے زیادہ ان کے دلوں پر بھی راج تاج کرتے ہیں۔ بڈشاہ اس لئے
زندہ ہے کہ اس نے تخت و تاج کو اپنے اور عوام کی توقعات کے درمیان
دیوار نہ بننے دیا بلکہ لوگوں کی خدمت گزار کی کو تصب اور تنگ نظری
سے ماوراء ہو کر اپنا شیوہ اور شعار بنایا۔ رعایا نے بھی اسے ہر چشم اپنے
دلوں کی دھڑکن بنادیا۔ بڈشاہ کی بے تعصبی اور کشادہ دلی کی جو تہانک
مثالیں تاریخ میں درج اور عوام کے حافظے میں مرقوم ہیں، اس سے
صاف ظاہر ہوتا ہے کہ اس کی شخصیت پر بلند و بالا اسلامی اصولوں اور
سنہری تعلیمات کا گہرا اثر تھا۔ یہ ان تعلیمات اور اصولوں کی دین ہے
کہ اس کی شخصیت مزاج عدل و انصاف کے قالب میں ڈھل گیا۔ اس نے
اپنے طرز حکمرانی کو اسی مزاج کے تابع فرمایا بنایا۔ چونکہ ان آفاقی
اصولوں اور تعلیمات کی اپنی دانگی افادیت ہے اس لئے آج بھی بہتر
حکمرانی کے لئے یہ رہنما خطوط فراہم کر سکتے ہیں۔ بہر حال جو قوم اپنے
اسلاف کے بہترین اوصاف اور خاتون کو نہ صرف یاد کرے بلکہ ان کو اپنا
نئے کا عملی نمونہ بھی دے، کامیابی اس کے قدم چومتی ہے۔ بڈشاہ اپنے
محسنوں کو یاد کرنا ایک زندہ قوم کی علامت ہوتی ہے، البتہ ان محسنین
کے طرز زندگی کی تقلید کرنا اور ان کے بتائے ہوئے اقتدار کو برقرار رکھنا ان کی
خوبیوں کو عملاً نا اور ان کو اپنے لئے عمل کا معیار اور پوائنٹ آف ریفرنس
قرار دینا، اسی سے ان لوگوں کے فیضان سے استفادہ کیا جاسکتا ہے۔
کشمیری قوم اس وقت تاریخ کے ایک نازک اور فیصلہ کن پڑاؤ پر کھڑی
ہے۔ اگرچہ اس نے تاریخ کے ہر اہم پڑاؤ پر صرف دھوکے ہی کھائے،
لیکن تاریخ کے ان پردوں میں کچھ ایسی بے مثال شخصیات کا پر تو بھی
موجود ہے جن کے نقوش پاؤ چل کر ہمارے آج کے اجتماعی مسائل کا
مفید اور کامد حل نکالا جاسکتا ہے۔ اس سلسلے میں بڈشاہ کی مثال کافی
بصیرت افروز ہے۔ بلکہ اس دور پر آشوب میں اگر ہمارے حکمران اور
لیڈران کرام اس تاریخی ہستی کی زندگی اور ناقابل فراموش عوامی
خدمات سے اپنے لئے inspiration حاصل کرتے ہیں، بالخصوص
ان کے طرز حکمرانی اور عوام پروری کو اپنے لئے نمونہ عمل بناتے ہیں تو
کامیابی ان کا مقدر رہے گی۔



Mr. G.M. Farhad speaking on the occasion of celebration of "Budshah Day"

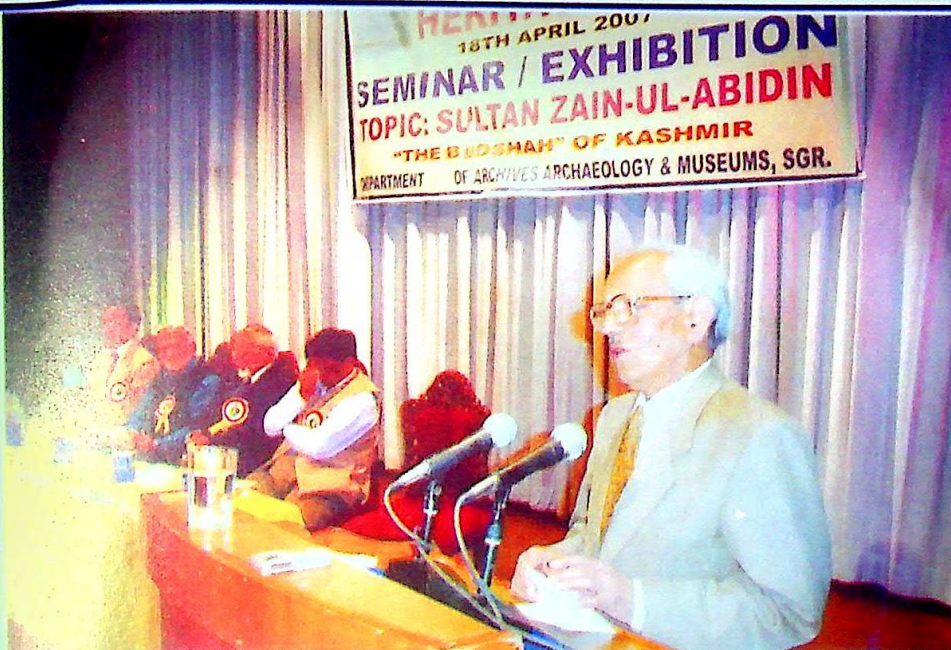


The Secretary Higher & Technical Education Mr. G.N. Mir releasing the Heritage brochure at the function

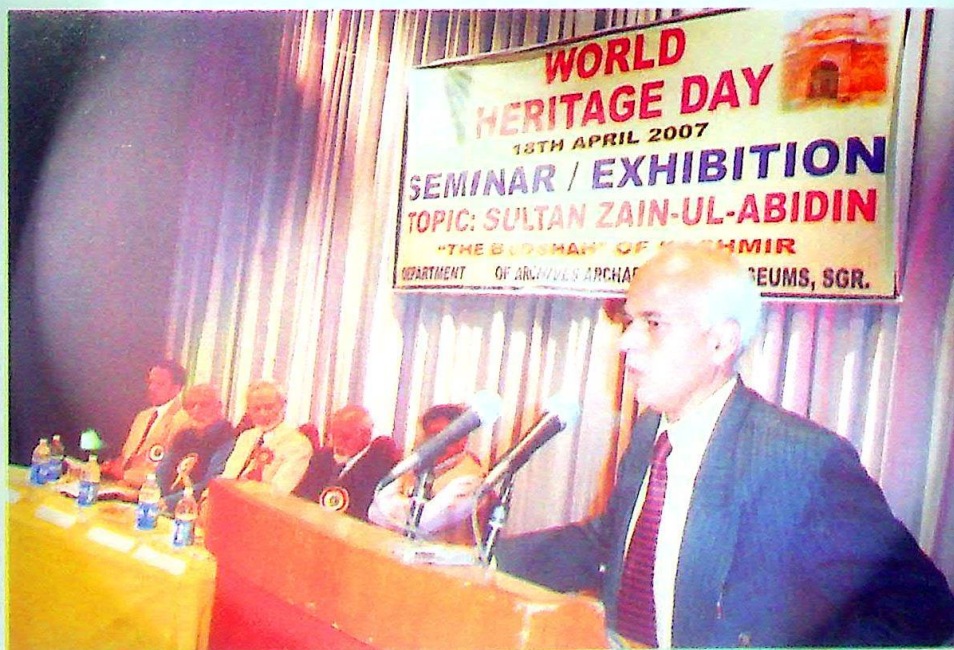


Gathering of intellectuals attending the seminar

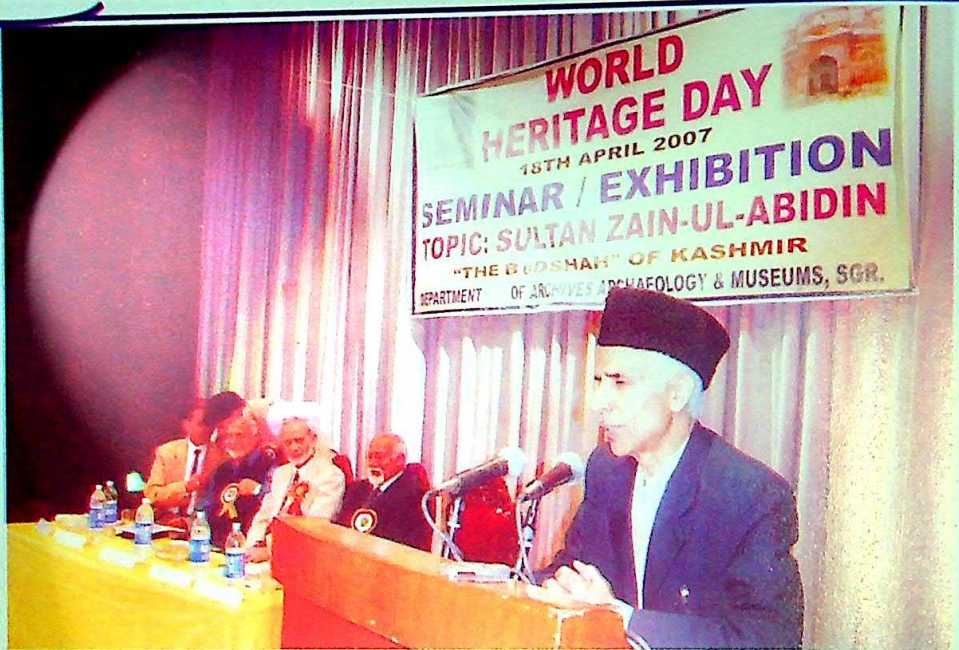




Dr. S. M. Iqbal, Ex. Director Archives Archaeology and Museums, presenting his paper during the seminar proceedings



Mr. Ajaz Ahmad Kukroo, Secretary to Hon'ble Chief Minister addressing the gathering of intellectuals during the seminar proceedings



President city citizen's council Mr. Zareef Ahmad Zareef is giving key note address about the preservation of built and natural heritage



Students attending the seminar



Divisional Commissioner,
Jammu Division,
Jammu

Pramod Jain
IAS

D. O. No. 402/1117/Archives
Dated: 24/12
2/12/06

Dear

Zahid,

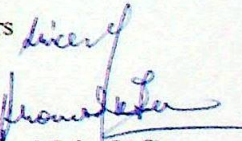
The brochure released by Secretary, Higher and Technical Education recently in commemoration of World Heritage week held from 19-25 November, 2006 is very knowledgeable, illustrious and attractive. It cover all the varied ingredients of our rich cultural heritage in the form of manuscripts, coins, paintings, jewellery, excavations, etc.

I extend my heartiest appreciation and good wishes towards this initiative of releasing a useful brochure and extend all my possible cooperation towards any such initiative in future.

With

regards

Yours


(Pramod Jain, IAS)

Shri Mohd Shafi Zahid,
Deputy Director,
Achieves, Archaeology and Museums,
Old Secretariat,
Jammu.

भारत पर्यटन विकास निगम लि.
India Tourism Development Corporation Ltd.

Scope Complex, Core B, 6th Floor
7 Lodi Road, New Delhi 110003 India
Tel.: 24360182, 24360185
Fax: 91-11-24363015, 24360223
E-mail: cmditdc@theadstokgroup.com
Website: www.theadstokgroup.com, www.theadstokgroup.net



परवेज़ दीवान, मान्य

अध्यक्ष (प्रमुख निदेशक)

Parvez Dewan, MS

(Chairman & Managing Director)

CMD/ITDC/2006
December 18, 2006

Dear *Farid Sahab,*

It was such a delight to receive your invitation and also the very high quality brochure you have sent me about the new finds. I am proud that we have someone like you diligently looking into our past.

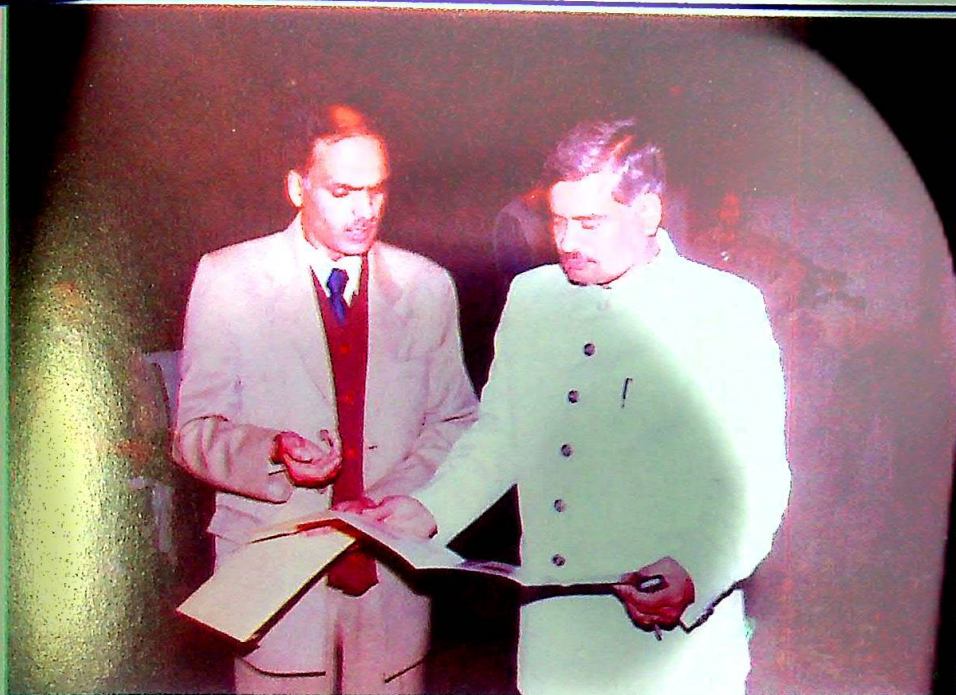
With warmest regards,

Yours sincerely,

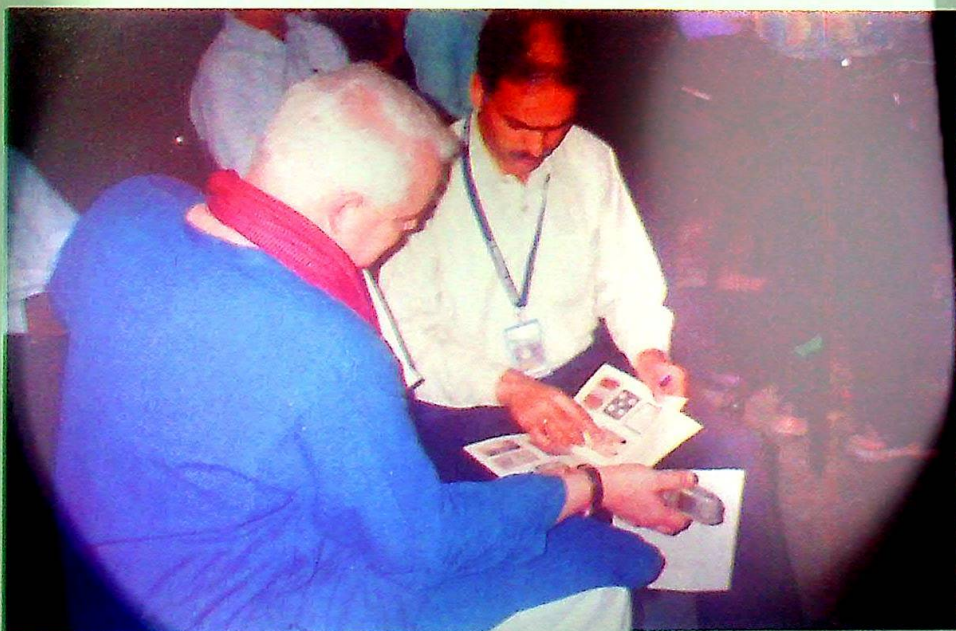
Parvez Dewan

(Parvez Dewan)

Shri M.S. Zaidi
Dy Director (M.S.U., Baroda)
Archives Archaeology - Museums
Stone Bldg Old Sect
Srinagar (Kashmir)



The Registrar, Jiwaji University Gwalior (MP) looking over the broucher released by the department of Archives Archaeology and Museums, Kashmir



Proffessor Jonathan Mark Kenoyar, Director, Centre for for South Asia appreciating the brochure released by the Department in which he has praised the rich heritage of J&K State



Mr. M.S. Zahid Dy. Director, Archives Archaeology & Museums, Kashmir
with delegates of Indian Archaeological Society, Indian for Prehistoric and
Quaternary Studies Indian History and Cultural Society at Jiwaji University
Gwalior (M.P)



Mr. M.S. Zahid Dy. Director, Archives Archaeology and Museums, Kashmir
1st International Conference of Society of South Asian Archaeology at Mumbai University

Dr. A.K.V.S. Reddy



महानिदेशक, राष्ट्रीय संग्रहालय एवं
कुलपति, राष्ट्रीय संग्रहालय संस्थान
Director General, National Museum &
Vice Chancellor, National Museum Institute

D.O.No.F.DGNM-2/2006

December 8, 2006

11 DEC 2006

Dear Shri Zahid

Please refer to your letter No.DDAMA-111-389/WHW/2006, dated November 29, 2006. Since I was on tour, I am sorry to have missed you when you came to meet me in my office on 6th December, 2006.

I thank you for the beautiful and informative Brochure released by Secy. Higher & Technical Education in commemoration of World Heritage Week held from 19-25 November, 2006.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

(A.K.V.S. Reddy)

Shri Mohamad Shafi Zahid
Dy. Director
Government of Jammu & Kashmir
Archives Archaeology – Museums
Stone Bldg Old Sect.
Srinagar Kashmir

831



Shailendra Kumar
IAS

SECRETARY
TO
CHIEF MINISTER
JAMMU AND KASHMIR

Srinagar Jammu

Off. : 0194-2477408 0191-2545074

Res. : 2483671 2457600

e-mail: sscm@jk.nic.in

D.O.No. *PS/Secy/HCM/Misc/106*
Date *18* December, 2006

Dear Zahid Sahib,

Your letter dated 29th November 2006 along with brochure regarding World Heritage Week 19-25 Nov.2006 at Stone Building Old Secretariat Srinagar has been received.

Thank you for sending the brochure released on 24.11.2006 in connection with World Heritage Week held from 19-25 Nov.2006.

The hard work put in by you and your team in the shape of brochure is highly appreciated. Kindly convey my best wishes to the team involved in its publication.

With regards,

Yours Sincerely,

Shy
(Shailendra Kumar)

Shri Mohammad Shafi Zahid,
Deputy Director,
Archives, Archaeology & Museums,
J&K, Old Secretariat, Srinagar.

PRATAPADITYA PAL

10582 CHEVIOT DRIVE
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90064
Tel: (310) 839-8547 • Fax: (310) 815-0192
E-Mail: chitpal@earthlink.net

August 20, 2007

Mohammad Shafi Zahid
Deputy Director
Archives Archaeology and Museums
Stone Building Old Secretariat
Srinagar, Kashmir

Ref: PMA-111-389/WHW/2006-622- dated 29-11-2006

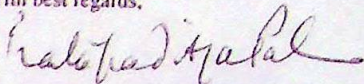
Dear Mr. Zahid,

The above letter along with the enclosure addressed to the Asia Society, unfortunately was forwarded to me only last week. I doubt if it would have taken as long if it had been delivered in Mughal times.

I thank you very much specially for the brochure which shows how active you and the department have been in enriching and preserving the heritage of Kashmir, which I hope will also be more widely recognized as a result of the exhibition. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you once again for all your help and cooperation with loans to the exhibition.

I am sure Asia Society will send you a copy of the book in due course. In the meantime I am enclosing herewith a small publication which I hope will be of some help to you in your research.

With best regards,



Cc: Adriana Proser



Director

J&K STATE GOVERNMENT LIBRARIES & RESEARCH DEPARTMENT

May to Oct. : Karan Nagar, Srinagar - 190001
Phones : Sgr. 2450238 (O) 2482638
Nov. to April : Kachi Chawni, Jammu - 180001
Phones : Jmu. 2540570 (O)

D.O. Letter No. DI/2865

Date 17/11/2006

Dear *Zahid Sahib,*

I am in receipt of your warm letter inviting to seven-day seminar proposed by you at Srinagar. It was really erudite and very academic interaction thus a great pleasure to participate in this seminar but owing to the short notice and non-extrication of myself from the official compulsions, I cannot attend this enlightening occasion. Kindly accept my heartfelt gratitude for your warm sentiments in inviting me. I, all the same, wish the opportunity every great success.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

(Syed Mohammad Fazlullah), IAS 17.11.06

Mr. M. S. Zahid,
Deputy Director,
Achieves, Archaeology & Museums,
Stone Building Old Secretariat,
Srinagar.



प्रत्यक्षीयतापूर्ण

DR B R MANI

Director (Publication)

भारत सरकार

महाविदेशिक का कार्यालय

भारतीय पुरातत्व सर्वेक्षण

जनपथ, नई दिल्ली-110 011

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA
JANPATH, NEW DELHI-110 011

No. BRM/Pers/2005-Pub.
28 December, 2006

To

Mr. A.K. Angurana, IAS
Principal Secretary to the
Government of Higher & Technical Education Deptt.,
Civil Secretariat,
Jammu-Tawi - 180001

29 DEC 2006

Recently, I met Mr. M.S. Zahid, Dy. Director, Deptt. of Archives, Archaeology and Museums, Srinagar in Gwalior in the annual conference of the Indian Archaeological Society and could see the brochure brought out by the J&K Govt. on World Heritage Week (19-25 November 2006) which gives the information about recent archaeological activities including new discoveries made in the State by the Department of Archives, Archaeology and Museums.

I would like to convey our deep appreciation for bringing the information through a nice brochure which would benefit all. Kindly convey the same to the officers concerned. I am enclosing a couple of copies of brochures brought out by Archaeological Survey of India this year.

Yours faithfully,

(B R MANI)

Director (Publication)

29 DEC 2006

Encl. As above

✓ Copy forwarded to Mr. M.S. Zahid, Dy. Director, Deptt. of Archives, Archaeology and Museums, Old Secretariat, Srinagar, J&K State.

balraj puri

Karan Nagar, Jammu-180 005
Phone : 0191-2542687, 2543556
email: balraj_puri1@rediffmail.com
Website: www.humanrightsjournal.com

Date : 16-12-2006

My dear Zahid sahib,

I thank you for keeping me informed about your efforts to extend the frontier of knowledge about the unique heritage of Kashmir and, as per in the latest letter, about creating interest in it of common masses. I am glad to know that the Heritage celebrations attracted, to commemorate World Heritage Week, so many people of different walks of life. Though, according to you, the brochure that you have sent me highlights composite culture of the state, I find only one from Basohli paintings is from Jammu and none from Ladakh. It is, to be precise, represents composite heritage of Kashmir valley which in no way minimize its importance.

Though Jammu's heritage is not as rich as that of Kashmir, it has suffered neglect at the hands of the autocratic rulers as also of popular governments.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely

Balraj Puri

(Balraj Puri)

Mr. Mohamad Shafi Zahid
Deputy Director,
Archives, Archeology and Museums
Old Sectt, Srinagar.



8/1/07

Dr M. S. Zahid,
Deputy Director,
Archives, Archaeology Museums,
Srinagar,
Jammu & Kashmir.

Dear Dr Zahid,

My apologies for not writing on time
and telling you how much I enjoyed reading
about your excellent work. Please do keep me
informed about it.

Regards

Nayanjot



Indian Archaeological Society

(Registered under the Society Registration Act 21 (2) of 1860)

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Former Registering Officer
Archaeological Survey of India,
New Delhi

No. 61/IAS/Secy/Per/ - 346.

Dear Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad Sahab,

It gives us great pleasure to congratulate your State for bringing out on the occasion of World Heritage Week (19-25 Nov. 2006), a beautiful brochure containing colour photographs and write-ups on precious monuments as well as coins, manuscripts, bronzes and other works of art and antiquarian remains explored and excavated by Mr. Mohamad Shafi Zahid, the Dy. Director in the Deptt. of Archives, Archaeology and Museums, Old Secretariat, Srinagar. You made an outstanding Powerpoint Presentation on these objects during the 1st Annual Conference of the Indian Archaeological Society held early at the Gwalior University.

Since you know the activities of our Society, and me also, I thought it was this opportunity to make a few suggestions:

1. The State can arrange an exhibition of the select art objects of J&K in the National Museum, Janpath, New Delhi, in 2007 (Sept.-Oct.) to be inaugurated by Mrs. Sonia Gandhi, who was a regular visitor to this Museum in the 1970s when Dr. L.P. Sihare was its Director and I was the Asstt. Director. I am sure it will be a great event from every point of view.

2. Adequate funds and patronage may be extended to the Archaeological Exploration and Excavation work in the State so that the new discoveries are made every year and published adequately in national and international journals. Only in this way the world will come to know of them; afterall, your State is so rich in antiquarian remains. In 1960-61 I had received my two months' training in Conservation of Monuments, at Srinagar. Unfortunately, Delhi public knew very little of the Cultural Heritage of Kashmir. Kindly do something about it; we can, if need be, help your archaeologists and museum people.

With kind regards,

Sri Ghulam Nabi Azad
Chief Minister, J&K
Srinagar

Copy to:

(i) The Director, Archives, Archaeology and Museums,
Old Secretariat, Srinagar (J&K).

(ii) Sri Mohamad Shafi Zahid, Dy. Director, Archives, Archaeology and Museums,
Old Secretariat, Srinagar (J&K).

Sincerely,

S.P. Gupta

S.P. Gupta

B-17, Outub Institutional Area, New Delhi - 110016



सत्यं शिवं सुन्दरम्

Department of Archaeology and Ancient History
Faculty of Arts
The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda
Vadodara

Phone (0265) 2792436

Ref: 2006/2006-07/146

Tuesday, December 05, 2006

To
Mr. Zahid
Dep. Director
Archaeology and Museums
Old Secit., Srinagar (Kashmir)

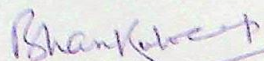
Dear Zahid

Congratulations! Thanks for sending the brochure released to commemorate the World Heritage week. I was wonderstruck by the richness of the archaeological treasures of our state. Indeed the State Department of Archives, Archaeology and Museums are coming of age under your able directorship. Keep it up.

All the best for your future endures

Thank you once again for keeping me informed

Yours truly,


(Prof. Kuldeep K. Bhan)
Head

Department of Archaeology & Ancient History
The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda
Vadodara - 390002

Dr. G.L. BADAM,
Senior Consultant
Tele. 23388123 (O)
26492919 ®
9891672490 (M)

सूत्रधार
इन्दिरा गान्धी
राष्ट्रीय कला केन्द्र
INDIRA GANDHI
NATIONAL CENTRE FOR THE ARTS

JANPATH, NEW DELHI - 110001
GRAMS, KALASAMPADA
FAX : 91-11-23388280
website : www.ignca.nic.in

D.O.No. 1/GLB(ii)/IGNCA/2007

January 10, 2007.

Dear *Sri Zahid*,

Thank you very much for the catalogue which was published by your Department on the eve of the World Heritage Week from 19-25 November, 2006. Your department has done a wonderful work by organizing seminars, excavations and interactions in which historians, intellectuals, cultural activists, heritage lovers, scholars, students and common mass took keen interest, thus highlighting the composite culture of the State.

We do hope that same work will continue in Kashmir and many new facets of culture, which have remained in background so far, will come to light and will reach us in times to come. I congratulate you for this wonderful work and wish you best of luck in your future endeavors with which we would like to get associated directly or indirectly.

Wish you a very Happy New Year and with best regards,

Yours sincerely,



(G.L. BADAM)

Shri Mohamad Shafi Zahid,
Deputy Director,
Government of Jammu & Kashmir,
Office of the Dy. Director, Archives,
Archaeology & Museums,
Old Secretariat, Srinagar (J&K)



Intellectual gathering of "World Heritage Day" celebration at tagore Hall.



The Students of Rahmania School Idd Gah presenting their song.



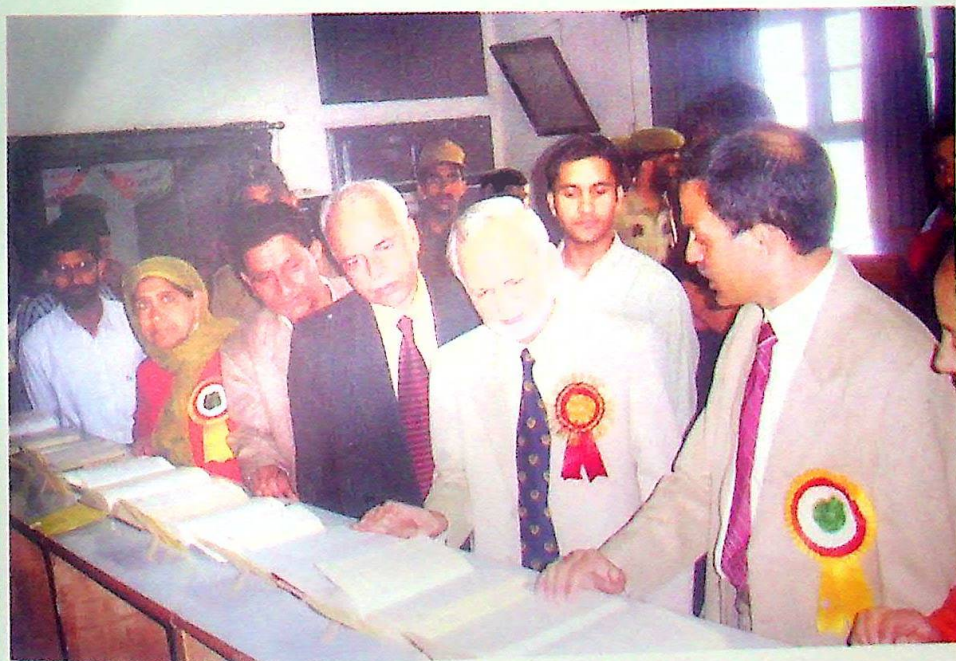
Noted Scholar Dr. Mufti Mohammad Maqbool, addressing the gathering on the eve of "International Museum Day" at S.P.S. Museum, Srinagar.



Ex-Director General Tourism Mr. Saleem Beigh speaking on the eve of "World Heritage Day" at Archives complex, old Secretariat Srinagar.



Prof. Ab. Wahid Querashi Vice Chancellor University of Kashmir inaugurating the exhibition on world Heritage Day 18th April 2007.



Prof. Ab. Wahid Querashi Vice Chancellor University of Kashmir & Secretary to Hon'ble Chief Minister Mr. Ajaz Ahmad Kukroo looking over the exhibits and M.S. Zahid giving brief about the importance of Archival Heritage.



Noted historian Dr. Fida Hassnaian addressing the gathering



A group photograph of staff members and Ex- Director's of the Department.

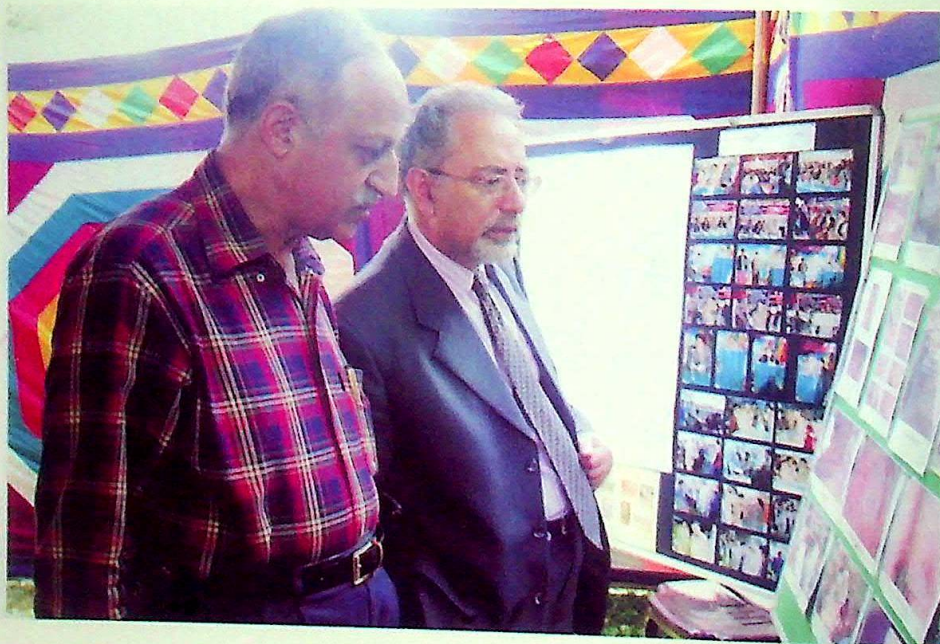


Mr. Mohammad Shafi Pandit (IAS) Chairman Public Service commission
addressing the gathering





Ex- director Dr.S.M.Iqbal with school Children and staff members of Archives Archaeology and Museums, kashmir.



Mr. Mohammad Shafi Pundit (IAS) Chairman Public Service commission (J&K) State and Mr. Mohammad Ashraf (IAS) Ex. Director General Tourism observing the Photographic exhibition.



سرینگر میں میوزیم ہڈنگ پر تعمیراتی کام جون ۲۰۰۷ء میں شروع کیا گیا اسے دسمبر ۲۰۰۸ء میں پورا کیا جائیگا



Exhibition at Lethpora site. (4th century AD)

Mary publications

NATIONAL CENTRE FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

General Editor
PRATAPADITYA PAL

Executive Office
ARMY & NAVY BUILDING,
148, MAHATMA GANDHI ROAD,
MUMBAI 400 002, INDIA
Telephone: 284 2200 - 282 1151
204 5947-68 - 204 5958 (Ext. 7500)
Fax: 204 5952-5953, 204 5954
E-mail: marypublications@rediffmail.com

October 17, 2007

Mr. M.S. Zahid
Government of Jammu and Kashmir
Office of the Deputy Director,
Archieve, Archaeology and Museums,
Old Secretariat, Stone Building
Srinagar

Dear Mr. Zahid,

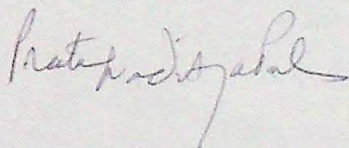
Thank you for your letter which your boss handed to me in N.Y. I am really sorry that the J.K. government refused to send the important bronze Vishnu mandala that you were keen on lending. Instead, at the last moment, they substituted the stone Brahma, which however, was not included in the book but the Vishnu was. What an unfortunate mess up. I still don't understand why the substitution was made.

I am also sorry that you could not come but I guess such is the bureaucratic unfairness one must suffer. I do hope you will get a copy of the book. 50 copies are being sent to Delhi for distribution. If you don't let me know and I will personally make certain that you get a copy.

I was very interested in reading the clipping about the seminar on Zain-ul-Abidin. I am glad it was a great success. In the book, I have written eloquently about him and in fact consider him of the greatest rulers produced in the subcontinent. I was a little disappointed however that the Seminar was confined only to Kashmiris. The "Badshah" should get more publicity. Anyway, I am interested in knowing if any books and manuscripts of his time have been identified. There should also be Persian mss. and qurans that belonged to him.

I am leaving Sunday for Bombay and will be there until Nov. 05, returning to L.A. on Nov. 10. Let me know in Mumbai if you have received a copy of the book.

All the best,



Residence: 10582, CHEVYOT DRIVE, LOS ANGELES, CA 90064, USA
Telephone: (310) 830-8547 Fax: (310) 815-0192

ختم غلطی

سید ابراہیم خان

حسن زینہ گیری

☆ ۱۳۲۷

ختم غلطی

نومبر ۲۰۰۸ء

ورشہ..... بیگانگی کب تک؟

عالمی ہیروئن دن کی مناسبت سے ریاست میں آن کل
ہیریٹج (HERITAGE) ہفتہ منایا جا رہا ہے۔ ہیریٹج یعنی تاریخی
ورشہ کی ہرزائے میں زبردست اہمیت رکھتی ہے لیکن موجودہ دور
میں یہ دنیا بھر میں ایک وطن کی حیثیت اختیار کر چکا ہے اور
سرکاری وغیرہ سرکاری سطح پر تاریخی ورثے کی بازیافت اور تحفظ
کیلئے بین الاقوامی ادارے کام میں مصروف ہیں۔ ترقی یافتہ ممالک
میں تو اس اہم سماجی شعبے کیلئے قومی بجٹوں میں خاطر خواہ رقم
تخصیص کی جاتی ہیں، جنگلی مونسے تحفظاتی ادارے قائم کر کے
انہیں بھرپور سہولیات سے لیس لیا جاتا ہے تاکہ نسل انسانی کے
سفر کے پھرے نقوش کھرچ کھرچ کر تلاش کر کے انہیں ایک
منضبط تاریخ میں چھوایا جاسکے، نیز قومی نسل کو اس سرمائے کی اہمیت
اور افادیت سے روشناس کرایا جاسکے۔ اس حوالے سے تعلیمی
انصاب میں اسے شامل کر کے مکمل مضمون کی حیثیت حاصل ہو
چکی ہے۔ ایسی پالیسی کے ذریعے نتائج ظاہر ہوتے ہیں۔ اول:
تاریخ کے مختلف ادوار میں قوموں کے عروج و زوال کی
دستاویزیں مجسم ہو کر محفوظ ہوتی ہیں اور مردم نمائے عالمی ثقافتی
نظام میں ورثے کے حامل مقامات کو تہائی سطح پر ہیروئن کو لازم
کے ذمے میں لایا گیا ہے۔ مغرب اور مشرقی اہمیت کے دونوں
ممالک میں قومی ورثہ سیاحت کی صنعت کا ایک جزو بن چکا ہے
گئے ہیں اور ان سے کروڑوں ڈالر کی آمدنی ہوتی ہے جس سے
دشمنوں کے منصوبعات پر محدود تر تحقیق کے لئے سامہ

فرہنگ ہوتا ہے بلکہ سیاحتی صنعت کے بانی زمروں جیسے ہول،
ٹراپیڈورٹ، دستکاریوں اور دیگر شعبوں میں روزگار کے وسیع اور
بہتر امکانات بھی پیدا ہوتے ہیں۔ ہماری ریاست، خاص کر
وادی کشمیر، کہ جس کی تاریخ ہزاروں سال پرانی ہے، میں ہیروئن
کا ایک بہت بڑا خزانہ موجود ہے، جس میں تاریخی عمارات، ملی
نوادرات اور تحریری مسودات شامل ہیں لیکن باقی دنیا سے
موازنہ کیا جائے تو بدقسمتی سے ہمارا قومی ورثہ وارثین کی موجودگی
کے باوجود لاوارثوں سے زیادہ خراب حالت میں ہے۔ وہ جاس
کی یہی ہے کہ نہ تو عوامی سطح پر اس کے بارے میں شعور بیدار ہو رہا
ہے اور نہ ہی سرکاری سطح پر اسے وہ پذیرائی مل رہی ہے جس کا یہ
مستحق ہے۔ آ کر کیا وہی، آ کر کاغذ اور میزیم کے نام پر ایک حکم تو
ضرور ہے لیکن اس حکم کے پاس نہ تو وفا مالی وسائل ہیں اور نہ
ہی بقدر ضرورت بنیادی ڈھانچہ کو اثر کے ساتھ کی سرکاریوں کی
پالیسی اس حکم کے پیش انتہائی ڈالو اول رہی ہے جس کی وجہ
سے حکم میں موجود تجربہ کار علماء اور ماہرین اپنی استطاعت کے
مطابق نتائج ظاہر کرنے سے معذور رہے ہیں۔ جس کے لئے
دیگر عوامل کے ساتھ ساتھ اس کے سربراہ کے لیکر ادنیٰ ملازمین
کی فرض ناشناسی سے صرف نظر نہیں کیا جاسکتا۔ سرنگرم میں قائم
ایس پی ایس میزیم برصغیر میں قدیم ترین میزیم ہے اور اس
میں ہندو، بودھ اور مسلم ادوار کے نامور اور نایاب ہیروئن نمونے
توجہ اور حفاظت کیلئے مڑ رہے ہیں۔ شیخ محمد عبداللہ سے لیکر مفتی
محمد سعید کی حکمرانی تک گئی بار ایک ایسا میراث بنانے کے ارادے
باندھے گئے جس میں ریاست کے تاریخی ورثے کو محفوظ کیا
جاسکے، لیکن حکومت کی جمیدگی کا اس سے بہتر کیا ثبوت ہو سکتا
ہے کہ تیس سال گزرنے کے باوجود اس کیلئے جاکہ کاغذی انتخاب
کئے نہیں ہوئے۔ گاہے گاہے وادی کے طویل وعرض میں قدیم
آثار کی نئی دریافتوں کے بارے میں اطلاعات ملتی ہیں، جو ایسا
محسوس ہوتا ہے کہ متعلقہ علماء یا سرکاری بنیادی اچانچے کے ہاتھوں
سے کھرچ کھرچ کر بھاد کر رہا ہے یہی حال حکم کے آکاہی
اور لاہیری میزیموں کا بھی ہے جہاں قدیم مخطوطات کے علاوہ
ریاست کا ایک صدی سے بھی زائد اہم سرکاری ریکارڈ اور
فائیل موجود ہیں جو جدید حفاظتی انتظامات کی عدم موجودگی میں
بر وقت تباہی کی نگاہ پر کھڑے ہیں۔ گزشتہ ڈیڑھ دہائی کے
دوران آگ کی کئی ہولناک وارداتوں میں انتہائی اہمیت کی حامل
تاریخی عمارات اور مخطوطات اور مختلف ریکارڈ تلف ہو گئے، وجہ
اس کی یہی تھی کہ ہم اس ورثے کی حفاظت کے حوالے سے ہمیشہ
بیگانہ رہے۔ اگر بیگانگی کی یہ روش ترک کرنے کی کوشش نہ کی گئی
تو لازمی طور پر یہ ورثہ زمانے کی دست برد کار ہو کر اپنا وجود
ہوگا کہ ہماری آنے والی نسلیں کو دھونڈنے پر بھی اپنی تاریخ اور
شناخت کے شواہد نہیں گے۔

[illegible]

GK News Service

also threw light on the roots of Kashmir's past while M S Beigh deliberated on the rising consciousness among people regarding heritage. A booklet was also released on the occasion.

On the sidelines of the function, the statement said, the chief guest inaugurated the rich archival and archaeological material which include documents, files, sculptures, coins, paintings, manuscripts, decorative arts, currency notes and photographs of the monuments.

In the second session of the programme, a panel discussion was held in which eminent historians, scholars and art lovers participated. The seminar was presided over by ex-director of the department Sheikh Muhammad Iqbal

Special exhibition at SPS Museum

Special exhibition at SPS Museum

SRINAGAR: In connection with International Museum Day, the department of Archives, Archeology and Museums is organizing seminar cum exhibition at SPS Museum, Srinagar on Friday.

A special exhibition on Kashmir Archeology/arts pertaining to our heritage will be held. It is expected that the exhibition will attract a large number of visitors and help them to know about the rich cultural heritage of the state.

Special exhibition on Kashmir Archeology and other artifacts pertaining to our heritage will be displayed. The people interested to know about the museum have been asked to attend the seminar

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE
DEPUTY DIRECTOR, ARCHIVES
ARCHAEOLOGY & MUSEUMS, STONE
BUILDING OLD SECRETARIAT, SRINAGAR
INTERNATIONAL MUSEUM DAY
18TH MAY 2007

INTERNATIONAL MAY 2007
18th MAY 2007

In conjunction with International Museum Day, the Department of Antiquities and Museums, in cooperation with the Seminar of Archaeology and Museums, will organize on 18th May 2007, One day seminar / panel discussion on particular theme at 10.30 AM at Seminar Museum and Society in Kadimur Archaeology / Museums Building, 100, The Esplanade, Singapore.

The subject: Special techniques to deal with antiquities in the field and other subjects pertaining to our heritage at 10.30 AM.

Experts from the Department of Antiquities and Museums, the Esplanade, Singapore will provide information to know more about Archaeology, Museums and Society and also to know more about the Museum and its role in the special exhibition / seminar on 18th May 2007 at 11 AM. In special historical, museological and curatorial aspects, and efforts will present their papers.

Mohammed Shariq
Deputy Director
Archaeology and Museums

DIPS-1253
01 75-95-2007

Muhammad Shafi Zahid
Deputy Director
Archaeology & Museums,
Singapore

Greater Kashmir

SRINAGAR SATURDAY AUGUST 12, 2006

JEHLUM VALLEY CIVILIZATION

Shadows of a forgotten past - I

Findings are great and great is the effort behind unearthing some of the oldest and undiscovered relics of a remote past.

comments M K Koul

Much has been heard about Jhelum valley and Harappan, where from we came to know about Indus Valley Civilization. It was only possible when great archaeological unearthed the old Archaeological sites and were able to uncover the dates of pre-Historical period. After excavation of the sites we were able to know and study the culture and living standard of the people in ancient times. The students of History and physics are still making the research work of the social, civil, political and economic conditions of that period. A thorough study and analysis of the Archaeological sites leads us to understand and know about the people living in pre-historical period. Indus Valley Civilization (Greek civilization) around 3000 years BC, but the civilization which the civilization not dating more than 1000 years BC, but the civilization which were flourishing the Kashmir dated 5000 BC and were unknown to the world.

Archaeological Discoveries in Jhelum valley and Harappan
Archaeological Discoveries in Jhelum valley and Harappan, where from we came to know about Indus Valley Civilization. It was only possible when great archaeological unearthed the old Archaeological sites and were able to uncover the dates of pre-Historical period. After excavation of the sites we were able to know and study the culture and living standard of the people in ancient times. The students of History and physics are still making the research work of the social, civil, political and economic conditions of that period. A thorough study and analysis of the Archaeological sites leads us to understand and know about the people living in pre-historical period. Indus Valley Civilization (Greek civilization) around 3000 years BC, but the civilization which the civilization not dating more than 1000 years BC, but the civilization which were flourishing the Kashmir dated 5000 BC and were unknown to the world.

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Author is Chairman Jammu and Kashmir Karwan-i-Aam

Heritage column

Dear Editor,
It was nice to read the heritage column by Iqbal Ahmad "Sculptures of Zurhama" which appeared in your esteemed paper on 21/05/2006. As your good self knows that the department has for last five years made some path breaking discoveries under my guidance which have appeared in your esteemed paper from time to time.

The wish desired by worthy author could not be accomplished due to the paucity of space in S.P.S Museum where we are having eleven galleries, viz about Archeology, Textiles, Anthropology, Geology and Mining, Numismatics, Natural History, Paintings. Due to Oct 8 earthquake and other factors we had to close three galleries in S.P.S Museum including children gallery and Library. So we could do nothing.

But holding of exhibition of rare artifacts excavated from rich historical Archaeological sites mentioned in Kalhana's Raj Tarangini require enough space and enough presentation material including audio visual material to make our artifacts to speak to the public at large. The artifacts excavated from the sites are so beautiful in features that these have now been selected by the Asia Society, New York for exhibition of "Arts of Kashmir" to be held in New York from Oct 2007 to March 2008. Before this exhibition outside the country, the proposals are under consideration to hold the exhibition not only of Zurhama Kupwara Bronze Images but other treasures of the past in near future which will become continues process in the state as that of Jammu

M S ZAHID
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
ARCHIVES, ARCHAEOLOGY AND MUSEUMS,
SRINAGAR

Letters to this column should be addressed to Edit
Page Editor, Kashmir Images, Shara Hotel, Lambert
Lane, Srinagar or mailed to
kashmirimages@hotmail.com

Kashmir Images

SATURDAY JULY 10, 2004

Budget 2004-05 Archeological finds of Letpora

As a reader of the Kashmir Images, you would be surprised to read a news item in your daily on 02-07-2004 about the finding of "8th century human head" in Letpora.

The concerned sub editor was publishing this misleading news item on the matter is that no human head was unearthed. But some terracotta in the shape of terracotta was unearthed. However, the date of this unearthing excavation still remains a subject of discussion among archeologists and historians.

In order to set the records straight, it is pertinent to mention that in the second week of April, 2004 a team of officials led by Mr. Mohammad Shafi Zahid, Dy. Director Archives Archaeology and Museums, Srinagar went on a routine research survey to the historical site at Letpora.

At Letpora itself, Mr. Zahid and his team found some strong evidence and accordingly started trial excavation work over there which ultimately yielded in the shape of terracotta material pertaining to the ancient period. The excavation under reference will go a long way in enriching our knowledge regarding our cultural heritage and different facets of our glorious past.

In addition to this, this unique unparalleled historic evidence will help us in understanding political, economical, artistic and cultural heritage of the era by gone. The news in this behalf appeared in almost all the leading local newspapers including Kashmir Images dated 14-04-2004.

All said and done, it can not be stated with certainty whether the terracotta in question belonged to the period of Raja Lalitaditya (8th Cen AD) or some other period. The authenticity of the period still remains a hot and debatable question.

After having placed all the facts in right perspective, it is expected that a newspaper of the stature of Kashmir Images will only enhance its image in the eyes of its readers by publishing the news of excavation in its entirety and also by mentioning the concerned minister Dr. Ghulam Nabi Lone's remarks in which he lauded the role of Deputy Director, Archaeology and his team, but for whose efforts, we would have not been able to achieve this breakthrough.

Mirza Ghulam Nabi
Malkpora, Pulwama



A document released on the occasion of world heritage day in Srinagar on Wednesday. —KT Photo/Aras Ali

seminar on Zain-ul-Abidin

KTNEWSSERVICE

SRINAGAR, Apr 18: On the occasion of world heritage day, the department of Archives, Archaeology and Museums Kashmir today organized a one day seminar/exhibition on the topic "Sultan Zain-ul-Abidin 'The Budshah' of Kashmir". A galaxy of intellectuals, historians and academicians were present on the occasion that delved on historical importance of the day and dealt in detail the contributions of Abidin in the history of Kashmir.

Famous historian of Kashmir Prof Fida Mohammad Hussain presided over the function while vice-chancellor (VC) of Kashmir University Prof Abdul Wahid Qureshi shared the chair of guest of honour.

Giving the inaugural address the deputy director of

Archives, Archaeology and Museums department M.S. Zahid said that Kashmir has a recorded history of 500 years. Declaring Zain-ul-Abidin as "Abdur Zaim-ul-Kashmir" he said that the Budshah has made a landmark contribution in history of Kashmir.

VC Kashmir University Abdul Wahid Qureshi stressed the unparalleled contribution of Zain-ul-Abidin in the history of Kashmir. He said that Kashmir has been a home to a glorious heritage and regiments of Budshah as the "great son of soil".

Fida Mohammad Hussain, the eminent historian of Kashmir while delivering on the topic said that Budshah is our Kashmiri identity. He said, Hussain said that many great rulers in the history have followed

the path of Zain-ul-Abidin, and are following it at present also. "Abdur followed the principles laid down by Budshah when he framed his religious principles. Even Perver Musharraf is following the principles of Zain-ul-Abidin," said Hussain.

The other intellectual speakers who took part in the debate were G.M. Zahid, Mohammad Iqbal, Prof M.A. Kwar, Ghulam Nabi Khattak, Mohammad Saleem, Shing, Zameer Ahmad Zameer, Abdul Ahad Farhat, Harat Gadda and many others.

An exhibition about the writings, contributions and works of Budshah, besides the works of Archaeology, Archives and Museums department was also kept for the viewership of the participants of the day long programme.

Imperiled Heritage

'Kashmir has a rich heritage and this needs to be preserved', this epithet echoes in all small or big literary and cultural functions held in the state. There are more than half a dozen government organizations that are supposed to be custodians of the 'rich' cultural heritage but the fact of matter is that majority of these organizations are as good as dead. It is ironical that any of these organization when revived by some enterprising officer interested in the promoting culture of the state he is shifted from that organization and another officer who has neither aptitude and nor inclination for running the department is pitchforked from a bulging list of administrative officers. There seems to be a deep conspiracy in neglecting the departments that have been set up for preservation of heritage of the state and promotion of culture. One of the glaring examples of neglect is the department of archives, archeology and museums. During the feudal rule this department was considered as one of the important departments. The autocratic ruler of the state took a very keen interest in the development of and it was for his understanding of preserving archeological heritage that the state museum in towards the close of nineteenth century was set up in a his personal guest in the salubrious environs of Lalmandi on the banks of river Jhelum and an amount of rupees forty thousands was released from the state treasury for setting up and it was not only the setting up a house for the archeological finds that bothered him but equally he established department of research that looked after retrieving and preserving the great cultural heritage of the land. But today both the museum and the department of archives is in utter shambles. The intellectuals, academics, historians and media professionals

have been agitating and protesting over the criminal neglect of the organizations that are supposed to look after the heritage and culture of the state. The department of archives which is housed in historical building in old secretariat is worse than a dungeon. Most precious documents about the state housed in this building are at present endangered. The neglect of the departments came under focus yesterday at a seminar organized by the provincial office of the department in Tagore hall. More than a dozen eminent scholars, academics and historian who made their presentation at the seminar where unanimous in asking the state government to save the archeological heritage of the state that has been imperiled because of the bickering in the department. There are sufficient provisions in the constitution for preserving the culture heritage and the states have been adequately empowered, but one wonders as to why still archeological treasure is endangered. Scholars expressed displeasure at shifting of archeological finds of the state belonging Neolithic and Paleolithic periods. It is shameful that the archeological finds from Burzehama, Harwan, Kotabul and many other places have been shifted from the state to Calcutta under the pretext that they were not safe in the state. The government instead of shifting these precious treasures from Kashmir should have created place for their preservation and safety. The people at the top need to understand that monuments were cultural heritage of humanity and their conservation was not just a management crisis but a socio-political responsibility. The government cannot escape these responsibilities, it needs to revamp the department of archives, archeology and museum.

Mythology is not History

And history is not mythology in essence

I am naïf. Little did I know that I had ruffled feathers and made earlobes turn pink till a grocer in *Maharaj Bazar* told me about it. I had not imagined to witness of my dreams that my innocuous statement of facts that 'pluralistic and tolerant society was born with the advent of Islam in Kashmir and till then it was a caste ridden truncated society under Brahminical hegemony at a seminar on Shah Waliullah or Shahi Khan Sultan Abdul-Ahmad (1429-1470) had made some intellectuals in the audience mutter. I had said that we pronounce 'religious tolerance' as an icon of Kashmiri identity and Sheikh-ul-Alam and Lal Ded as emblems of our identity then it is purely a contradiction of Islam. The grocer who was also amongst the audience of "intellectuals" made me proud that an ordinary Kashmiri knows his history better than many of my 'literate' colleagues calling themselves as intellectuals. His curiosity in knowing his past and feeling proud about it strengthened my confidence that this 'tiny nation cannot be trampled down' so easily. He gave me inspiration to revive the debate that had been generated in the well attended seminar. I had stated that the 'medieval period has been 'distorted', 'contorted' and painted ugly by historians with jaundiced eyes and tinted glasses'. I had stated Sultan Sikandar was not a 'bigot' but in the words of Sir Walter Lawrence 'brave and cultured', 'a generous person in the words of G.M.D. Sufi 'thousand times very much humane than Harsha and others whom nobody ever maligns publicly, so loudly and pungently. I had said that he was more aimed against than his sinning. I had dwelled in detail upon his contribution in setting up universities and seminaries. I had felt deeply appealed to contemporary historians who were present in good number in the seminar to re-write and not rehash Kashmir history which is full of inaccuracies and inadequacies. I had said that let us not parrot that we have a five thousand years old history that is demagoguery. We are no demagogues let us come up with history based on facts and not in the words of a Pakistani writer Mushahid Hussain allow 'mythology pass for history'. There was need for chafing fiction from facts and deinking mythology from history.

I call *Rajatarangini* a masterpiece not of history but of literature. Like a good piece of literature it is facts mingled with fiction and myths woven in mosaic of tales of kings and consorts. It is not history in the

tradition of Edward Gibbon, Thomas Babington Macaulay, Thomas Carlyle or John Rich and Green but an epic in the tradition of great Indian epics brimming with fiction and supernatural tales. Classical importance of *Rajatarangini* intact; how many of our historians have tried to sieve facts from this monumental work and re-write history of period on scientific basis. How many of our historians in the tradition of Gibbon have laboured "to examine and digest all the extant authorities, afterwards to select the material from immaterial; then finally to tell the whole truth long story, making each personage and every fact fall into proper place so as to give unity and perspective to the whole". It is painful to state, but it is a stark truth, none of our contemporary historians have made an effort to put events in the right perspective. Most of the historians have only retold the stories already told without even changing their punctuations. It

they perhaps have an agenda of giving bad name to the people who continue to live in the valley. But question arises that is this war to be taken lying low? Our historians and academicians owe a responsibility to their conscience- if not to the people. These distorters calling themselves as 'cyber warriors' need to be fought back- fought back with full force. More than individuals it is the institutions that have to fight back them. The University of Kashmir has four institutions dedicated to history- the Post-graduate Department of History, Institute of Central Asian Studies, Markazi Noor and Institute of Kashmir Studies but hardly any of these departments has a website of its own. There is no 'alien' in these departments who are generally blamed teachers for all ills in the university. They are headed by aborigines- true odd men are political appointees but majority have a strong academic background. It is bounden duty of these institutions to counter this 'cyber war' against Kashmir history.

The institutions may or may not wake up but our historians' octogenarians and young need to introspect to find out if they are honest to their land and people. Majority of researchers are only rehashing old history and re-writing history based on primary sources. There is no dearth of primary sources, Kashmir has the highest number of manuscripts in Persian, Arabic, Sharada and Sanskrit but how many of our scholars are using these manuscripts. It is not the medieval history that needs to be re-written but our contemporary history- the history of our struggle against autocratic rule has been distorted. It has suffered the same bias as the medieval history. Even most progressive historians Feroz Nadi Haza could not escape this bias. He too has been subservient to dictators while writing history of Freedom Struggle in Kashmir by ignoring even dismissing the struggle of the Muslim Conference from 1931 to 1938 and beyond in a paragraph.

There is a lesson for my historians in the achievements of William Dalrymple. During his fifteen years stay in India he gave three great books about Mughal period entitled *City of Djinns*, *The White Mughals* and *The Last Mughal*. If a Scottish who fell in love with dusty Delhi and took world on an odyssey in Mughal India why cannot our historians fall in love with their own land and give world an unbiased history of Kashmir to the world.



PUNCHLINE

By Z.G. MUHAMMAD

is not only distortions but lies about medieval history of Kashmir that are being internationalized- a section of Kashmir society has gone flaky and they are engaged in putting all kinds of lies about medieval Kashmir based on biased histories on website. It is true by doing so they do no honor to themselves but bring disrepute to Kashmir history. It was shocking for me that scholar from New Delhi doing a book on Kashmir for one of the leading publishers in India with chain of outlets all over the world had assimilated all the muck dispensed to the world through these websites and framed his opinion about medieval and recent Kashmir history on the bases of material dished out through these websites.

My estranged friends living a comfortable life away from dust and heat of plains or stinking gutters of valley in world's best metropolises are busy in fabricating truths about their own motherland- the land that has cradled and nursed them. They have concocted stories and contorted history. It is not medieval history that is painted murky- they have coined all derogatory words for the resistance movement started by Kashmiris in 1931. These distortions and falsification based on histories written by their forefather they call as 'cyber war'. This war is against whom? And what has prompted these people to unleash this war? I have no answer for these questions.

51st YEAR OF PUBLICATION



SATURDAY, 10th MAY 2002, 10



عالمی یوم میوزیم پر یہ طالبہ عذاب گھر میں رکھے گئے اس بے جان چہرے کو غور سے دیکھ رہی ہے

عالمی یوم میوزیم

طالبہ عذاب نے اپنے گھر میں ایک عظیم الشان میوزیم بنایا ہے جس میں وہ اپنے تمام دوستوں کے لئے عظیم الشان میوزیم بنایا ہے جس میں وہ اپنے تمام دوستوں کے لئے عظیم الشان میوزیم بنایا ہے جس میں وہ اپنے تمام دوستوں کے لئے عظیم الشان میوزیم بنایا ہے

عالمی یوم میوزیم کا انعقاد

طالبہ عذاب نے اپنے گھر میں ایک عظیم الشان میوزیم بنایا ہے جس میں وہ اپنے تمام دوستوں کے لئے عظیم الشان میوزیم بنایا ہے جس میں وہ اپنے تمام دوستوں کے لئے عظیم الشان میوزیم بنایا ہے جس میں وہ اپنے تمام دوستوں کے لئے عظیم الشان میوزیم بنایا ہے

کشمیر عظمیٰ **میزیم** **میر بلنگ قابل مرحوم**

4 ستمبر 2007 منگلوار

سربراہ ہوں، ہم نے انار سے ایس بی ایس میوزیم اس منہدی سے سے ایک
 جہد و عمارت کی تعمیر چاہتے تھے وہ سکے ساتھ جاری ہے۔ نہ انار کے لئے نہ انار
 حکومت کو اس بات کا تصور ابھرتا احساس ہوا کہ ایس بی ایس میوزیم کے لئے ایک
 محفوظ و وسیع کمرہ دار جہد بلنگ کی ضرورت ہے۔ یہی وقت اس کی جانب میں
 کوئی کشمیری ہے کہ آج تک کشمیری تاریخ کے ساتھ ایس بی ایس میوزیم کے نقش میں
 والی اگلی کی وہ تاریخی عمارت کی یہ نگاہیں کاثر نہ ہوا۔ حالانکہ ایس بی ایس میوزیم کے نقش میں
 نہ کی جس میں علم و آگہی کے شرف اس نے اپنے ساتھ لایا ہے۔ یہی وقت اس کی جانب میں
 شاعری کے فوٹے اور تاجیاب محفوظات بھی موجود تھے۔ جو تہذیب و ثقافت کے
 دوسری کے محفوظات میں خاکستر ہو گئے۔ لیکن شکر ہے کہ میوزیم میں موجود ہوا ہے
 لائق درستی اور تاریخی میراث حالات کے دست برد سے آج تک بچ کر رہے
 بہت سے ملک حکومت کے پاس ان میں اس میوزیم کو اس کے ساتھ ساتھ محفوظ
 میں کافی وقت و کامیابی حاصل ہو رہی ہے۔ اس تاریخی میراث کو محفوظ رکھنا ہمارا
 اور باقی ملک کے لئے یہ میراث ہے۔ سب سے بڑھ کر یہ میراث بھی اس سلسلے میں قابل
 شرم ہو جاتی تھی اور توجہ دیا جائے تو قدر کی وجہ سے اس کی افادیت پر بھی حرف
 آج تھا۔ ایک عام لوگوں کی نظر میں اس کی افادیت پر بھی حرف
 اور اس کے ساتھ ساتھ اس میں جہد بلنگ کی ایک ہی ایس بی ایس میوزیم اس منہدی سے
 ایک وسیع و عظیم قاعدہ اس میں جہد بلنگ کی ایک ہی ایس بی ایس میوزیم اس منہدی سے
 ساری میراث اس سلسلے میں حکومت نے بجا طور پر یہاں کے دانشوروں اور تاریخ دانوں
 لگاتار سے لگتی رہے۔ اس کے ساتھ ساتھ اس کے ساتھ ساتھ اس کے ساتھ ساتھ اس کے ساتھ ساتھ
 میراث کو اس کی ایک خاص حالت میں رکھنا ہمارا فرض ہے۔ اس کے ساتھ ساتھ اس کے ساتھ ساتھ
 جائے بلنگ اس کے ساتھ ساتھ اس کے ساتھ ساتھ اس کے ساتھ ساتھ اس کے ساتھ ساتھ
 کے ساتھ ساتھ اس کے ساتھ ساتھ اس کے ساتھ ساتھ اس کے ساتھ ساتھ اس کے ساتھ ساتھ
 رسائی جگہ پر رکھا جانا چاہیے۔ اس منہدی سربراہ میں جہد بلنگ کے لئے قابل
 پارے میں اس ادارے میں ہیں کہ یہی منزل عمارت جہد بلنگ کی تعمیر کی تہذیب و
 شہادت کے تمام فوائد اس کی عمارت ہوگی۔ ہاں اس بات کی امید ہے کہ اس
 کیلئے اس کے ساتھ ساتھ اس کے ساتھ ساتھ اس کے ساتھ ساتھ اس کے ساتھ ساتھ
 کا امیر ہے کہ یہی بلنگ میں لگاتار اس کے ساتھ ساتھ اس کے ساتھ ساتھ اس کے ساتھ ساتھ
 مہیا ہے۔ ہاں اس کے ساتھ ساتھ اس کے ساتھ ساتھ اس کے ساتھ ساتھ اس کے ساتھ ساتھ
 آؤ میراث میں ہوں گے اور اس کے ساتھ ساتھ اس کے ساتھ ساتھ اس کے ساتھ ساتھ اس کے ساتھ ساتھ
 میوزیم کے لئے ایک خاص حالت میں رکھنا ہمارا فرض ہے۔ اس کے ساتھ ساتھ اس کے ساتھ ساتھ
 کے ساتھ ساتھ اس کے ساتھ ساتھ اس کے ساتھ ساتھ اس کے ساتھ ساتھ اس کے ساتھ ساتھ
 ذہنی نشوونما میں یہ ادارہ ایک فیڈرل ادارہ ہے۔ یہی قیام کا مرکز ہے۔ اس کے ساتھ ساتھ
 سلسلے میں آؤ میراث میں لگاتار اس کے ساتھ ساتھ اس کے ساتھ ساتھ اس کے ساتھ ساتھ
 کہہ کر یہ تعمیر بلنگ میں جہد کا ہی کے لئے اپنا لکھ کر ہوا اور اس کے ساتھ ساتھ
 انیس اس عمارت کی تعمیر میں سرمت لانے کے لئے بھی تمام تر کام کرنا ہوگا۔ یہ
 تاکہ اس پر جہد کی کھیل باؤں چھوٹ نہ پڑے۔ اس سلسلے میں شہر سے باہر کے
 باہر زین کی آرام بھی طلب کی جانی چاہئے تاکہ جہد میں ہر لحاظ سے ایک مثالی ادارہ
 بن کر رہے۔ یہی تہذیب و شہادت کا ترجمان بن سکے۔

THE KASHMIR TIMES, JAMMU
 Saturday, May 19, 2007

Seminar on museums held in Srinagar

IKT NEWS SERVICE
 SRINAGAR, May 18
 Highlighting the importance of museums in the society and their role in education and other spheres of life, the department of Archives, Archaeology and Museums (AAM) today organized a seminar cum exhibition at Shri Prataph Singh (SPS) Museum, here today.

The seminar entitled "Museums and Society" was organized to mark the international museum day. The function was inaugurated by Mohammad Sina Pandit, chairman Public Service Commission (PSC).

Appealing the historians and other interested people of the state to come forward and help the department for upholding their objectives of restoring the lost glory of rich heritage and in a way make people aware about museums and their role, deputy director department of AAM, M S Zahid said that the objective of today's seminar-

cum-exhibition is to educate the people of valley about the role of museums in society and in the sphere of lives of people.

"Today I take this opportunity to apprise all classes of society about the difficulties the department is facing. We are suffering from the want of technical and other sources which could have enabled us to preserve what so ever is left now," said Zahid, in his speech.

Speaking on the occasion the noted historian of Kashmir, Z G Mohammad suggested the authorities to declare three oldest religious sites - Khankah, Mohallah, Mujahid Manzil and Mirwar Manzil - as "state protected sites".

The function was attended by a galaxy of historians, intellectuals and other concerned people. More than 2000 school children also participated in the seminar. An exhibition on art, excavations and archeology of Kashmir was also organized.

Kashmir Images

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 24, 2005

Kutbal findings - kudos to Dy Dir Archaeology

Dear Editor,

Apropos news items titled "Kutbal to be developed as heritage site" appearing in your esteemed daily Kashmir Images dated 20.09.2005. People in general and the Scholars, Academicians, Historians and Archaeologist in particular got electric at this path breaking excavation of same hither to unknown civilization in the Kutbal of Shangus Block. The excavation is an indicator of the fact that there are treasures beneath our soil and need is to explore the same and introduce the rich and glorious heritage of our land to the people.

The people who turn indifferent towards their heritage are in the final analysis losers. Heritage connects people with past and gives them a reason to feel proud of what the past has been. Unearthing the glorious past is a noble mission and the mission needs devoted people who have a will to work and who love their place and people.

The special interest shown by the Deputy Director Archaeology and Museums, Mr. Mohammed Shafi Zahid and subsequent effort put by him made this dream excavation possible. In spite of all odds, the officer put his act together by organizing a tour of historians, archeologists, intellectuals and all the concerned people to Kutbal hills on 15th of September.

Being a keen student of history, I too had a privilege to be part of the entourage on 15th Sep. 2005. The trip also brought relief and joy to this sleepy Kutbal, Sheikh Pora as the local MLA announced a series of measures aimed at ameliorating the lot of the villages. The local MLA Mr. Peer Mohammad Hussain who too was present on the occasion was wise enough to gauge the importance of this historic trip. Mr. Mohammad Hussain was gracious enough to ensure the local Gujjar population about extending Electricity, water connection to the otherwise neglected hamlet of Kutbal besides opening of a mobile school. The mobile school idea was floated by Madam Atiqia Ji of *Meeras Mehal* from Sopore, herself an academican, who too was present in the seminar.

This trip has also worked as a catalyst by connecting the bonds between local population and the administration. The devotion and dedication exhibited by Mr. Mohammad Shafi Zahid, Deputy Director Archaeology in performing the assigned duties should decidedly make him a role model for the young officers and other officials of the Department.

The government on its part should also encourage such dedicated officer as such encouragement would bring efficiency in different spheres of our administration.

Dr. Mohammad Yousuf
Department of History,
Kashmir University

TO OUR FELLOW CITIZENS

We appeal in the name of our cultural glory.

To help preserve our heritage of antiquities historical monuments and manuscripts.

Did we lose any of these; we would lose a golden page of history, a glorious legacy of the past, a marvel of art and a literary accomplishment of a savant-ancestor.

Therefore would it not be just to protect our legacies of the past, to discover the hither to concealed historic sites and even get the antiquities and the monuments registered without losing anything.

In the same spirit do we expect of the owners of antiquities and coins etc. to make gifts of the duplicates or to hand them over to us and receive compensation and appreciation. Manuscripts of cultural and historical value can also be sold to this Directorate.

Likewise authentic information about the existence of antiquities and historic sites and monuments will be greatly appreciated.

Directorate of Archives Archaeology & Museums
J&K Govt. Srinagar. Kashmir province.

VISITORS AND TOURISTS

If you wish to know the collective life lived by our forefathers, their ways, their art and their dexterous devices, and be introduced to workshop of human understanding as well as to study your own history of bygone

Then visit

S.P.S. Museum at Lalmandi, Srinagar / Archives Repository
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OUR HERITAGE OUR PRIDE

BUDSHAH THE SYMBOL OF UNITY IN DIVERSITY



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